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SAVVY TIMES

Welcome to the Journey! Issue 5, October 2004

The Official Parelli Savvy Club Magazine

Learning Savvy for Clinics

Meeting Smart Seven

Bringing Up Your Life

Spooking on the Trail

When You Get Bitten Say, "OW!"

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SAVVY TIMES

The Official Parelli Savvy Club Magazine
Issue 5, October 2004
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On the Cover: Pat Parelli & Smart Seven.

One of my favorite quotes was penned by 19th century French novelist Emile Zola. He wrote, "If you asked me what I came into this world to do, I will tell you: I came to live out loud."

I'm willing to bet that many of you would agree that Pat Parelli, indeed, came to live out loud.

That "living out loud" included, as it turns out, being part of a cattle rustling scheme. Pat was innocent, of course... Here's the story.

Freddie Ferrera, one of Pat's earlier mentors, was a trapper in Diablo Valley, a rugged area tucked in the mountains of Northern California. As a young man, Pat learned a lot from Freddie, tagging along on adventures, intently observing Freddie's unique ways.

Freddie was a real character, someone you might find in a Zane Grey or Louis Lamour novel. He had an old stock truck, a 1956 Ford, that could hold four or five horses. "Four horses would go in pretty easily," remembers Pat. "But Freddie would almost always load a fifth one. That fifth horse, if you had one that was kinda part rhinoceros, would lunge up the ramp and wedge itself against the plywood sides. That plywood would just bulge out almost to the cracking point. I was always amazed it held." Pat's aunt Donna, a close friend of Freddie's, inherited the truck when Freddie died, and Pat eventually got the truck from his aunt.

Freddie had an old house, surrounded by livestock and hounds and cattle dogs, on the old Livermore rodeo grounds. He and Pat would start young horses there, then ride them up in the hills behind the house. As a barely-teenager, Pat was in awe of all of Freddie's "stuff," including the huge brass ring with "about a thousand keys on it."

Now, the ground that Freddie covered as a trapper was from the tip of Mt. Diablo to the tip of Mt. Hamilton, which was about 50 miles tip to tip. So it was logical that Freddie should have the keys to numerous locked gates to gain access to the private property in this region. When someone would call Freddie to track a mountain lion, for

instance, it only made sense that Freddie had to have the keys to get to wherever the big cat was sighted.

Pat would tag along on these assignments, learning tracking savvy from Freddie, and, apparently, how to multi-task during these missions.

"I just thought it was normal," says Pat, "that when we were on a trapping expedition, we would just kick out a couple of cows or calves from one pasture to another and lock the gate behind us. Then we'd kick two

Along comes a family reunion several decades later, and Pat and Buttons were reminiscing about old times, and about Freddie Ferrera.

"I told Buttons that I remembered being on his property with Freddie one time before he became my uncle," chuckles Pat.

"Yeah?" said Buttons. "Only one time? And stealing some of my calves, I suppose."

"What do you mean?" asked Pat, wide-eyed and truly innocent.

"That damned Freddie Ferrera stole more slick calves than anyone in the county!" exclaimed Buttons.

Pat started searching his mind of all the times when he and Freddie would move a few calves here or there. Remember, dear reader, that Pat was just a kid, and to him it seemed like Freddie was conducting legitimate business when they 'rearranged the herd.'

"I started thinking about it," laughs Pat, "putting all the pieces together, and I suddenly realized that I was a 13-year-old accomplice to cattle rustling!"

Luckily, Pat learned much more from Freddie than just how to steal calves.

"We would go out for days at a time and take the horses and dogs. Freddie knew which horses you could turn loose at night, and which ones you could turn loose during the day. Even at what time. Freddie knew his stock — including where the cows and calves would be at what time of day! He just had a knowing way of 'everything natural.' He knew the nature of wild animals — their habits, their travel patterns, how to track them. Freddie was really the last of his kind."

Freddie influenced the young

Pat Parelli in a variety of ways — from philosophy to tracking, rope art to ways of the Old West.

"When winter was approaching and we weren't riding the horses much," remembers Pat, "we would take all the snaffle bits off the headstalls. We'd oil the headstalls and get them ready to hang up for the winter. Then we'd put all the snaffles in a gunny sack, dig a hole, throw in the gunny sack and cover it with dirt. When we'd dig up the gunny sack



Freddie Ferrera

or three over here or there. We'd practice our roping on these cows and corral them, then put Freddie's brand on them. We did it all the time.

"Many years later my aunt Donna married a man named Buttons George who was called 'The King of the Hill' because he lived at the top of Mines Road. Buttons had known how close Donna and Freddie were, so he never said anything about Freddie at all."

in early spring, the bits would be covered with rust. Freddie always said a rusty bit was the best thing for starting a colt — horses love that sweet rust taste. The horses would have big orange slobber marks all over their mouths, but they loved the taste. That's why sweet iron is so much better for bits than stainless steel.

"One of my last memories of Freddie was of him and his horsehair twisting machine. He made horsehair mecate ropes. A couple of weeks before he died, he and I were out in the barnyard, making a rope. All I did was feed the horsehair into the machine, keeping the strands tight. That rope started off black, then black and white, then white, then brown and white, then brown. I have that rope; Freddie left it to me. I also have a horsehair bosal that he made and a pair of his old Visalia buckaroo spurs."

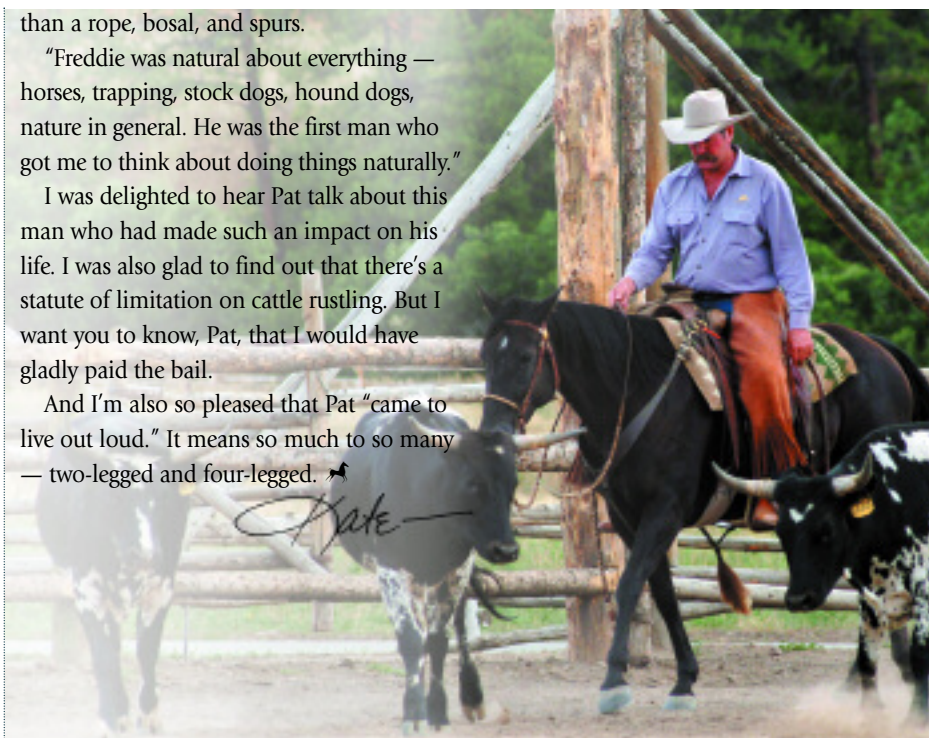
Freddie left Pat with much more, however,

than a rope, bosal, and spurs.

"Freddie was natural about everything — horses, trapping, stock dogs, hound dogs, nature in general. He was the first man who got me to think about doing things naturally."

I was delighted to hear Pat talk about this man who had made such an impact on his life. I was also glad to find out that there's a statute of limitation on cattle rustling. But I want you to know, Pat, that I would have gladly paid the bail.

And I'm also so pleased that Pat "came to live out loud." It means so much to so many — two-legged and four-legged. ✨



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PARELLI SAVVY CLUB PHOTO CONTEST



1ST PLACE PRIZE:

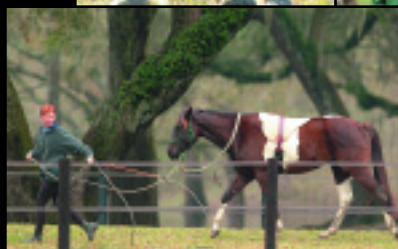
1 week course at either the Colorado or Florida Pat Parelli Center with a Parelli Instructor

2ND PLACE PRIZE:

\$500 Credit with Parelli Natural Horse•Man•Ship

3RD PLACE PRIZE:

Bareback Pad



CONTEST RULES:

1. We will accept unmounted, color or black and white prints (up to 8"x10"). Digital entries must be submitted as prints. All photos become the property of Parelli Natural Horse•Man•Ship and will not be returned.
2. Winners will be contacted by telephone and may be asked to submit their original negative, slide, print or digital file for publication. If your original is requested, then it will be returned to you after publication.
3. You may submit up to three photos. Each print must be numbered and accompanied by a short explanation of what is depicted and where it was taken. The photographer's name, Savvy Club member number, address, phone number and e-mail contact (if available) must be included. Only photos depicting the principles of Parelli Natural Horse•Man•Ship will be considered (i.e., no gunsels halters, mechanical devices, etc.).
4. By entering this contest, the photographer grants Parelli Natural Horse•Man•Ship the unrestricted rights to use the photo and the photographer's photo credit without

further compensation. These rights apply to all uses, including print and web. The photographer also takes on the responsibility of making sure the subject of the photograph (the person depicted) has consented to the use of their image in this manner.

5. Each winner will be required to sign a form stating that the winning photograph is his/her original work and that the subject of the photograph has given their permission for its use.

ELIGIBILITY: This contest is open to all Parelli Savvy Club members in the U.S.

JUDGING: Entries will be judged by a panel comprised of Parelli staff and our on-staff, professional photographer.

MAILING: Submissions should be packed appropriately (suggestion: in a padded envelope with cardboard stiffeners). Send to: Parelli, Savvy Times Photo Contest,

56 Talisman, Suite 6 OR PO Box 3729, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Parelli Natural Horse•Man•Ship is not responsible for any materials that are late, lost or damaged.

DEADLINES: Entries must be postmarked by June 1, 2005. Judging will be held in July 2005. Winners will be notified no later than August 1, 2005. Winning photos will be published in the October 2005 issue of Savvy Times.

PRIZE RULES:

1ST PLACE: Course must be applied for within six months of winning. Prize is course fee only. Does not include extras such as horse leases, lodging or transportation. Transfer and cancellation fees do apply. No cash value.

2ND PLACE: Credit is for products only (does not apply to courses). Can only be redeemed on phone orders (not on the web or at tour stops). No cash value. Non-Transferrable.

3RD PLACE: No cash value. Non-Transferrable.



BEST FRIENDS AND BEST PARTNERS, GOING FAR!

Parelli has been one of the best things that has happened to me. I am now 15 and studying Level 2. Pat and Linda are two incredible people, and I am glad that they followed their hearts and have spread the word that there is a better, more natural way with horses.

My first horse, an Appaloosa named Rango had many problems, like running from you when you went to get him from pasture, not standing still when groomed or saddled, (the first time we saddled him, grooming time included, catching time not included, took us an hour and a half!). He would jump around when you went to put fly spray on him, would freak out at the leg straps on his blanket, hated the hose and water, just to name a few!

Fast forward a little in time... I started playing with Rango, earning his trust. We were starting to bond. One day, I went out in the pasture to get him. I called his name, but I didn't see him. I walked a little farther down, saw him, called his name again. He turned around and started trotting to me. I thought, "What the heck, let's see what he does." I started jogging, and he came right up next to me and stayed with me, not straying a step! I couldn't believe it! I stopped, gave him a big hug, then started jogging again. So did he. He stayed with me all the way to the barn! I put his halter on, and brought him out into the hallway. Mom and a friend of the family were in the barn, and as I walked up to them, they noticed that I was crying. They asked what was wrong, and I told them what I had just experienced.

Fast forward to present day... Rango and I are best friends and partners. We have so much trust in one another it is amazing! So, thank you Pat, thank you Linda, for opening my eyes, and getting me inside the mind of the horse. And I thank my wonderful horse, Rango, for being my teacher, my partner, my friend.

— Rebecca Eddins

TO YOUNG RIDER MAGAZINE

I just wanted to say thanks for doing the article on the Parellis. Just recently my daughter and I got to see them in person in Buffalo N.Y. We really enjoyed the show and informa-

tion. My daughter has a Welsh pony gelding that pretty much had a mind of his own. After going to see the Parellis they started to connect. He catches so much better. Before we thought we were in big trouble when he lost his halter, because we spent more time chasing him than riding. Now she takes off his halter all the time and he runs to the gate to meet her. I can honestly say she even became much better in her horsemanship. She even refers back to her Young Rider Magazine articles with Linda Parelli if she's not sure how to do something. I will say it's got to be the first magazine or even book that she really takes care of and I don't find it laying around the house.

— Sara Flint

Editor's Note: Young Rider Magazine ran a great series with Linda Parelli and the Parelli Seven Games. They may still have back issues. Young Rider can be reached by e-mail at youngrider@fancypubs.com or by calling 800/365-4421 to subscribe.

FAREWELL TO GUSTO

I have just come home from making the decision — so immensely difficult, and yet in this case there was really no choice — to put my special friend, my 24-year-old Hanoverian, Gusto, whom I have owned for nine years, to sleep. He had torn one of the ligaments right off the bone in his right elbow, and there was no hope of recovery.

A gentleman with a sense of humor was Gussy, and he was well-loved! He had spent a good part of his life doing dressage, and had

magnificent movement, but he saw no reason to go forward "with impulsion." So, for most of his life, he was over-trained, and subjected to spurs and crops, as various dressage experts tried to produce impulsion where there was no will.

His life was a bit dreary for that reason, I think, until, when he was 22, I started him on the Parelli Games. He thought at first that this was all a bit silly, and again, "Why bother?" But every day when we played the games, even if there was initial resistance, when I showed him again that I was trying to speak his language, and to ask politely rather than to demand his obedience, he discovered fun.

He loved going for a ride with no halter, he loved being asked for a canter without kicks and spurs, and turning without the force of a bit. Stopping him was never a problem anyway, but for the first time he discovered it was fun to Go! His attitude changed, he found freedom and joy — and we were such good friends!

All too often people think of the Parelli system only for helping them with their problem horses, the ones who are a danger to their humans, or the ones who frighten them. We sometimes forget that the ones who are not like that deserve our time and efforts at least as much, if not more. I think that the "easy" ones are sometimes horses who are just resisting in another way, not by acting out but by shutting down.

I will miss Gussy immeasurably, but I do take comfort in the fact that with your help Gussy learned to have fun. I thank you for that!

—Winkie Sutherland

PARELLI PLAY TIME

I love playing with my Morgan weanling, Melody. She plays all Seven Games and more. Here we are playing with our ball—her favorite. She will even play with the ball at liberty — we push it back and forth to each other. Melody is a PMU foal adopted from Foaltrek and we have been Parelli partners for three months.

—Linda Algire



Photo courtesy of Linda Algire



BE SAFE... BE READY

This article in the July 2004 Savvy Times is full of gems. Savvy Tip #6 really hit home to me today.

Yesterday, I took my horse on his first trail ride by himself. He's been on quite a few rides with other horses and has done really well. And we are doing really well at home, so I thought he was ready.

So off I go down the hill and my horse is eager and ready to go. About five minutes into our walk, he calls out to his buddies and begins to get a little anxious, but still is maintaining his cool or so I think. Then we set off into the woods and a twig snaps and he jumps and gets more anxious and more calling to his buddies.

So I think, he is NOT ready. So I head off the trail to a nice open grassy area and decide that it is time to get off and work on the Seven Games until he is relaxed. So I did a combination of games and grazing. His energy was very high and he was a bit agitated, but he would do everything I asked — just not calmly. So I kept at it. After about five minutes I began to see a change. He would relax a bit and put his head down to graze for a few bites, but then get anxious again. Head up, walking around. After about 10 minutes he would graze for longer periods. Then I started to work on mounting. My goal was to be able to get to the point where I ask for permission to mount without him walking off. This took another five minutes and by the end of 20 minutes he was relaxed and content to graze. I decided then it was safe to mount and head home.

He was very eager to head home, so I thought that it would be a good time to work on sideways. But this really made him anxious again, so I thought "quit while you're ahead" and let him walk home...

Now after reading Linda's article, I think that I probably should have stuck with the sideways until he relaxed. The following really hit me:

"Basically do anything except allow your horse to go forward... This means that backwards and sideways maneuvers, frequent disengagement of the hindquarters, and standing still are the only options."

"You also need to match the horse's energy or he won't even notice you. Then you need to add a bit more energy on your part so you can offer leadership... the moment he looks at you, stops, or softens, you have to do the same. The idea is that your horse will start to realize the only way to keep you quiet is to be quiet first."

"You have to be 'bigger' than whatever is going on in his head. What doesn't work is trying to make him calm down by getting all soft and soothing or petting him."

Wow! Makes a lot of sense and I know I gave up too soon on the ride back. So now I have an idea for the next ride out.

— Lida Pinkham

RE-INSPIRED

I decided to do a little reading the night before traveling to a Parelli Clinic in Windom, Minnesota last week, so I picked up my new Savvy Times. When I came across the tribute article by Wanda Schmitt about our

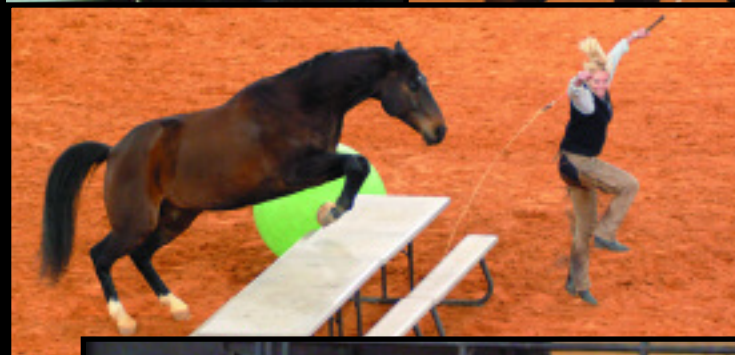
dearly departed John Harms, I found myself in tears. I met John in 1998 when I asked him to come and do a demonstration at a mounted police school I was instructing near Madison, Wisconsin. I knew that it was new territory for most, if not all, of the officers in attendance (about 30), and wasn't sure how they would respond, as cops are notoriously suspicious of anything new and tend to be a somewhat challenging group to teach. Well, I needn't have worried. John got out there and showed them how his horse could do everything from pushing a ball to standing stock still while John stood on his back cracking his famous bull-whip around. His obviously superior horsemanship and unassuming, matter-of-fact personality won them over fast. Needless to say, I had a barn full of new converts who were now VERY interested in Natural Horse-Man-Ship. John stuck around and played with us the entire next day and continued to do group lessons on an occasional basis with our local mounted police group for the next couple of years, until his health started to fail him. I was never really motivated to test out on any Parelli levels — I just wanted to learn things that would make my horse and I better partners on the street.

Well, this past weekend I FINALLY took my Level 1 Assessment and passed. The Windom clinic was the first one I had been to with a horse since John stopped teaching. Starting in September, I intend to schedule at least monthly lessons with another Parelli Instructor and eventually achieve Level 3 with my 5-year-old police mount, who John helped me start as a baby with Parelli methods. Someday I hope to become a Parelli instructor and carry the message forward to more mounted police nationwide. John left a big hole when he passed on to horsemen's heaven, but I know he was smiling down on me Sunday night. When I passed my Level 1 assessment I could almost tangibly hear John's voice saying — "Well, it's about time Edie — ya' done good."

— Edie Brogan



Parelli 2005 Tour



Clemson, SOUTH CAROLINA February 5-6
Clemson University, T. Ed Garrison Arena

Perry, GEORGIA February 12-13
Georgia National Fairgrounds, Reaves Arena

Kissimmee, FLORIDA March 5-6
Osceola Heritage Park, Silver Spurs Arena

Huntsville, ALABAMA March 12-13
Alabama A&M University, Agribition Center

Harrisburg, PENNSYLVANIA* April 2-3
Farm Show Complex, Equine Arena

Little Rock, ARKANSAS April 16-17
Barton Coliseum

Fort Worth, TEXAS April 23-24
Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum

City of Industry, CALIFORNIA May 14-15
CRIA Equine Center

Puyallup, WASHINGTON May 21-22
Western WA Fairgrounds, Paulhamus Arena

Vernon, British Columbia, CANADA May 28-29
Venue pending

Red Bluff, CALIFORNIA June 4-5
Tehama Dist Fairgrounds, Pauline Davis Pavilion

Madison, WISCONSIN June 18-19
Alliant Energy Center

Columbus, OHIO* June 25-26
Ohio Expo Center

Battle Creek, MICHIGAN July 2-3
Kellogg Arena

Denver, COLORADO July 9-10
National Western Complex, Stadium Arena

Great Falls, MONTANA August 13-14
Montana State Fairgrounds, Four Seasons Arena

Casper, WYOMING August 20-21
Central Wyoming Fairgrounds

Albuquerque, NEW MEXICO* August 27-28
Expo New Mexico/Tingley Coliseum

Upper Marlboro, MARYLAND* October 15-16
Prince George Equestrian Center

Kingston, RHODE ISLAND* October 22-23
University of Rhode Island, Ryan Center

Shelbyville, TENNESSEE October 29-30
Calsonic Arena

Tunica, MISSISSIPPI November 5-6
Tunica County Arena and Expo Center

Ocala, FLORIDA December 9-10
Ocala Equestrian Center

**To Be Confirmed*

Tickets go on sale **December 1st**. Savvy Club members receive free admission by showing their passport at the door. Special: \$20 Dec. 1-31. 2005 Tickets: \$65; \$35 each for groups of 10 or more; \$100 at the door.

Each issue of Savvy Times features a particular subject to which our readers can respond.

January Issue: Patience (submissions must be received by November 22nd for printing)

Please send your submissions via e-mail to: savvyclub@parelli.com or via U.S. Postal Service to: Savvy Times, c/o Parelli, PO Box 3729, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147. Thanks!



It wasn't too long after purchasing my first horse eight years ago that I knew my good horse had a problem rider. I didn't know what my problem was but I knew that my poor riding skills were causing my sensitive Quarter Horse to become an explosive nervous wreck. As is normal, I spent several hundreds of dollars on riding lessons for a couple of years, becoming at the time what I thought was a better rider, although my mare was still volatile and I was not having much fun riding her.

I have been a horse owner for eight years now, but it has only been since I began following the Parelli program a year ago that I feel that I am now becoming a good rider. I had several major problems to overcome, one being the need to get my hands out of my horse's mouth. Prior to Parelli, I did everything with my hands, including leading my horse tightly by the reins, bracing for balance, pulling to stop, pulling to turn, pulling to correct any inappropriate behavior, and pulling to "help" my horse find her way along the trail. In fact, "pulling" might be an

understatement; death grip might be more like it.

After a year in the Parelli program, I am now near the end of Stage 2 in Level 2. The other day I attempted my first cantering passenger lesson. I had never enjoyed the canter and wasn't looking forward to it. When I began, the first two things I did were to lean forward to grab tightly a hold of the reins and to grip with my knees. Bells went off in my head. Thanks to both the Savvy Club information and the RFD televi-

sion programs, I knew instantly what I was doing wrong. I couldn't believe it. I was so relieved. I knew what was wrong and I knew how to fix it. It will take some time to work up to a pretty passenger lesson at the canter but I am set up for success.

I love communicating with my horse with my eyes, belly button, and knees. I'm still a little quick to use my hands sometimes, but when I make this mistake an alarm blares because I know better. Ignorance is no longer an excuse for poor horse(wo)manship. I don't know who is more grateful for Parelli, me or my horse. Either way, both of us give this wonderful program a big hand.

— **BECKY MCGUYER**

Danged if Pat Parelli wasn't right.

I was in a rush (I know better around horses) and had to catch a 30-year-old Morgan that my dear friend had left me in his will. The horse had only been with me for a few days, but today was farrier day and we had to get on with the schedule. Even though he's 30, this horse is wily, quick, and

hates to be caught. And he's really good at not being caught — he's been practicing for decades. This horse was about as wild as a March hare as any horse I've ever come across in my 50+ years of having every kind of horse imaginable.

I went into his pasture, called him up for grain, and reached out to him with my short pudgy hand, fingernails dirty, in a soft manner — just like Pat teaches. I can't begin to tell you how badly I wanted to just grab his fly mask so I could halter him. But I remembered Pat's advice about letting the horse reach out to your hand, not the opposite of reaching out to him.

So I stood there, dredging up as much patience as I could possibly muster, with my hand outstretched, eyes cast downward, breathing slowly. And sure enough, just like Pat said, this old horse stretched his neck and reached out with his muzzle, softly placing his nose on the back of my hand. I slowly got my other hand on his mane and stroked his neck, massaged his crest, and scratched the hard muscles of his massive chest.

A few minutes later my fingernails were even dirtier, but somehow my hands had conveyed a message to this wise old horse. And he followed me. He's been following me ever since. It was one of those moments in time, that outstretched-hand moment, when the world falls away, your breath becomes deep and mindful, and the horse learns to trust. Thanks, Pat.

— **CAETLIN McANDREW**

I never even thought about my hands in relation to a horse until I heard Pat's voice on the "hold button" one day when I telephoned the Parelli office in Colorado. I was listening intently to Pat's recording, hoping that the sales lady wouldn't come back on the line until I had heard the rest of the topic Pat was talking about. Pat had just said something about "hands that open quickly and close slowly." All of a sudden I had a mental image

of that, and wanted to know more.

So when the lady came back on, I asked her about what Pat had said and she explained how that was part of the Parelli education. I was hooked. I ordered even more stuff than I had planned.

That afternoon I saddled up and stared at my hands before I could even let my horse take a step. Over the years had I paid enough attention to "hands that close slowly and open quickly?" Nope. Now was the time, though, when I had new information that could make a difference.

I notice so much more now, thanks to that one sentence.

— **MORGAN NICHOLSON**

More about Partners... (a little late for the last issue of Savvy Times, but here it is!)

She's smarter than I am! Don't nag!

I got hooked watching the wild horses at Palomino Valley Station in Reno, Nevada. How could you not be in awe of the herd as they played and ran?

On Valentines Day 2003, I adopted a yearling mustang filly. A sign at the station said, "Call for Natural Horsemanship"... and so my year began. The moment they loaded her into the chute, I was coached to go and rub her withers and blow into her nostrils. She cried out as she left the only family she had ever known. We went only three miles before we unloaded her amidst "Parelli trained horses." She calmed immediately. Before one hour was over, my Parelli coach had me touch her and halter her. This was a breeze! It took about four weeks for her to do the Seven Games. She walked between barrels, strode fearlessly into trailers, laughed at tarps and cans — and most importantly, came to me for comfort!

Then the time came for her 2000-mile move with a lay-over in Colorado. Shippers were wary to take a mustang, but I assured them she was trailer-safe. She loaded and unloaded like a pro! Everyone loved her confident, agreeable personality.

She had only one job for the next year: to grow in size and ground ability. That's when I learned how "smart" my partner was! She was quick to learn a lot of things, including how to outsmart me.

How wonderful I felt when she came to me — until she stepped on my foot! She figured out that I could not send her off when she was in close, especially if I was in pain. She was the "lead mare" of her new herd and I was getting instructed. I could hear her snicker, "I'm a mustang; you can't beat me."

So I had to go for postgraduate education.

Terri Palmer-Sprague came to the rescue. We spent two days re-adjusting the "partnership." I had to stop "nagging" and refine "ask, tell, promise." The filly had to re-adjust her comfort to outside my bubble! There were some uncomfortable moments for both of us, but Terri guided us through.

I rode her for the first time right after that adjustment of our relationship. The filly says that if I lose 20 pounds and she gains another 100 pounds, we are "partners" for sure!

— **MARY ANNE PAPP**



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*When
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Brace yourself — not for the bite, but for a very different perspective on why horses bite and what to do about it. In Parelli land, you can bet it's the opposite of what people would normally do!

HORSES WITH A TENDENCY TO NIP USUALLY HAVE A HIGH PLAY DRIVE

While watching horses play with each other, you'll notice they do things like push with their bodies, rear up, strike and kick, and BITE. Of course it's all in fun and grabbing a bit of skin in the teeth is no big deal, unless the recipient is a human. It hurts! A horse that wants to nip you is usually expressing its desire to play, but he doesn't know the human skin is not quite as tough as a horse's. On one hand it's a compliment that your horse wants to play with you; on the other hand, it's a clear sign that he doesn't see you as alpha.

HORSES NEVER BITE THEIR ALPHA!

Do you know how to recognize the alpha horse in a herd? He or she is the one without any bite marks! Horses don't bite their alpha. In the game of dominance, those who "bite best" win. When horses play and nip at each other they are basically developing their dominance skills and rehearsing takeover strategies.

PEOPLE TURN PLAYFUL HORSES INTO MORE AGGRESSIVE BITERS

Most people smack a horse for biting, which doesn't work because prey animals don't understand punishment. They think you are biting back and now the interchange becomes all about who will "win" the dominance game.

In horse-land the bravest, smartest and quickest horse wins. The alpha horse is calm, self-confident and totally unemotional. He's also ready to do whatever it takes to maintain the alpha position. So when a horse goes to bite and you try to smack him, the horse just gets better at the game — he gets quicker at taking a nip and dodging the slap.

As time goes on the nips turn into bites because the horse gets more serious about dominating you. Also, when a horse can

evoke an emotional reaction from you — surprise, anger, fear — he knows you have no chance of being alpha. You obviously aren't calm, smart or brave enough!

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

When asked what Pat Parelli does when he gets bitten he responds: "I say 'ow' and rub it until it stops hurting!" What else are you going to do? Slapping the horse doesn't work and it sure doesn't improve the relationship. If you received a bite it's your fault. What you need to do is figure out how to prevent it in the first place. Once bitten, retaliation is fruitless.

HOW CAN YOU GET A HORSE TO NOT EVEN CONSIDER BITING YOU?

You may have heard the story about Pat and the Thoroughbred stallion that was so vicious he had to be snubbed to a pole and muzzled before he could be handled. What no one recognized was that the horse was not being aggressive — he was being extremely defensive. He was so afraid of being handled around the head (a situation that developed since weaning) to the degree that he thought he had to get you before you got him. It's so interesting that both horse and human were afraid of getting hurt!

Pat turned the situation around with tons of understanding and Friendly Game (Love), playing the Seven Games so he could convince the horse he was not in danger (Language), and by winning the games to earn the position of alpha (Leadership). That horse changed his view of humans so dramatically that he could be handled without the muzzle. The challenge then was to keep the situation that way and to not let it regress, which takes quite some commitment from the handlers. Another trainer had recommended having the horse's teeth removed. It's not the teeth that are the problem; it's the fearful relationship and lack of trust. Thank goodness they called on Pat.

SATISFY THE PLAY DRIVE

Many biters live in very restrictive envi-



When you bitten, "OW!"

By Linda Parelli

HORSE THAT BITES?

YOU CAN BE CERTAIN

THAT PAT PARELLI

DOES JUST THE OPPOSITE

OF WHAT'S TRADITIONAL

IN THE HORSE WORLD



ronments, like stables and pens, and are isolated from other horses. It's understandable that they're going to feel pent up as their need for social interaction gets very high. And then you may be all they have!

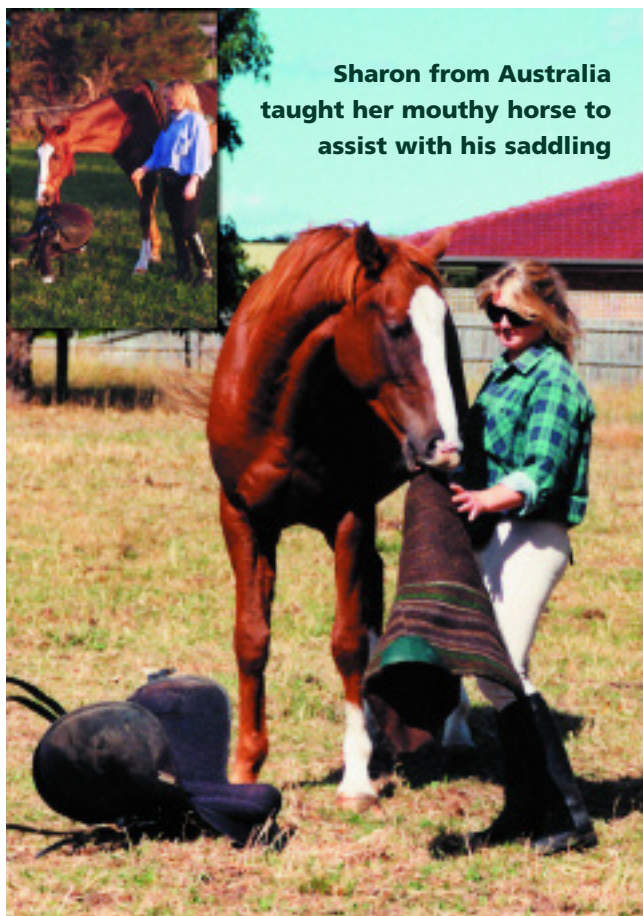
The Seven Games teach you how to interact with your horse in a constructive and playful way and at the same time allow you to exert your leadership in ways that horses understand. Dominant horses move other horses around and that's what the Seven Games teach you to do. The game is "who moves who." If your horse can make you move your feet, he knows it's just a matter of time before he can knock you off your perch. Horses are persistent in their quest for dominance and they are not in a hurry!

When playing the Seven Games, use them creatively as opposed to playing the games the same way every time. Always playing them the same way turns the Seven Games into the Seven Jobs, and bored horses start to get pretty inventive! Try playing the Games with an obstacle where the horse has to do lots of different things, from jumping the obstacle to stepping on it to straddling it, going sideways over it, backing up to it, etc.

Next, consider playing on longer lines. You need to graduate from that Level 1 12-foot Line pretty quickly or it becomes a limiting factor. The 22-foot and 45-foot Lines give the horse more room to move around, get faster, allow him to express himself, and yet stay connected to you. Longer lines also develop your ability to influence your horse from farther away. Once again, don't get stuck on just the Circling Game. Use obstacles, do different things with them, and keep your horse mentally engaged. Get him to think and wonder what you're going to ask him to do next!

INDULGE THE TALENT!

A horse who is mouthy and nippy is also showing his need for oral interaction. Play with his mouth a lot, and do more



**Sharon from Australia
taught her mouthy horse to
assist with his saddling**

than he really wants: Rub vigorously with your hands, pull his lips around (playfully of course!), rub his tongue with the Carrot Stick, teach him to lead by the tongue (Level 2), teach him to pick up your cap or a stick or a bucket. Put this obvious "talent" to good use.

In Australia, a Parelli student taught her once very nippy young horse to fetch her cap when it blew off while riding and to hand it to her. He also learned to participate in the saddling procedure, handing Sharon the pad and then the saddle itself!

STAY OUT OF THE NIP ZONE

Most horses nip because they are too close to you. In Levels 1 and 2 we teach you to move your horse away a lot and to keep him out of your personal space. Horses with a tendency to nip also tend to crowd your space, are over friendly, pushy

and self-confident. Simply asking the horse to stay at a respectful distance can make a big change to his nipping behavior. Remember, if they can't reach you, they can't bite you!

DON'T SMACK 'EM — BACK 'EM

If you feel a nip coming on, back your horse up quickly and intentionally. This changes their mind because it's a dominant move on your part. Give up the smacking. It doesn't work and it actually can turn a horse nasty. Put more backing into your daily interaction with the horse and above all, don't let him barge into your space.

Important: Keep your feet still and cause the horse to move his feet, and do it without any emotional tension. It even helps to not look at the horse directly. As soon as he's backed away, smile and relax. Another hint: If the horse is really aggressive, don't be on the same side of the fence as him! Play with him through the fence or over the gate or a stall door. You need to get his

trust before getting any closer than that.

HORSES ONLY BITE PEOPLE THEY DON'T LIKE, DON'T RESPECT OR DON'T TRUST

Remember, horses are prey animals. They are most concerned about safety. Some horses bite because they are scared or unconfident (right brain); others bite because they are trying to dominate (left brain). In both cases, backing them up works. And in both cases, improving the relationship works. Just like people, horses need to feel liked and respected.

Success with horses relies on knowing how to develop and maintain friendship and respect. That's what the Seven Games teach you as you evolve through the program Level by Level. It's a balancing act. You can't make a horse respect you by punishing him; in fact, it does the opposite. Aggressive people may successfully

cause a horse to stop biting but they don't win the horse's heart.

Become the kind of person a horse likes, respects and trusts. This means:

- a) Play a lot of Friendly Games. Get your horse to like you and have positive thoughts when he sees you. Bring him cookies and carrots (as gifts, not bribes!). Understand life from his perspective, understand how he develops respect, and consider his needs.
- b) Develop your leadership skills to a minimum of Level 2 so you know how to earn your horse's respect without fear. Horses need an alpha or they will assume the role.
- c) Play the Seven Games a lot! Prove to your horse you are not a predator, and that he can trust you no matter what. There's a delicate balance between getting your horse to do as you ask and preserving his confidence.

The Parelli Program is all about Love, Language and Leadership in that order, and in equal doses. It's the key to preventing and solving problems so you can have the relationship you've always dreamed of with your horse. 🐾



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Learning Savvy for Clinics



I'm back! I arrived at the Pat Parelli Center in Pagosa Springs two weeks ago and I am having a VERY exciting summer. I returned from Australia to support the launch of the new Parelli Level 1 home study program and my new book *Move Closer Stay Longer* which was inspired by my adventures with Pat and Linda these past few years. The book teaches strategies to eliminate fears that block the path to your goal. I will write more about that in the future.

I also wanted to talk with students who'd been using the strategies in *Great Lies We Live By* and who have completed *The Labyrinth* online course. Needless to say it has been a busy year, and this next one promises no less.

Given I'm here and am surrounded by students in classes and observing how they approach learning, I feel compelled to write about a few ideas that relate to how you can get the best out of a clinic when you finally get everything in place to attend one.

INTRODUCTION

The first thing I did when I arrived was to offer to lecture to Linda's incoming

Level 3 class. As it turned out I did this for everyone at the Center that day. As many of you know I have been mostly focused on helping to improve the learning process for home study students. But I do know a good bit about how to help students take advantage of a face-to-face course as well and there had been little opportunity to offer that to Parelli students until now.

The purpose of the lecture was to help students think about the nature of learning and the behaviors that would produce good results in *CLINIC* situations. This is very different than what is required of students when they are working at home on their own as independent learners. Very few people think about this, and it leads to sometimes hit-and-miss outcomes for their time spent.

I want to share with you a few of the ideas I discussed in that lecture. If you find yourself heading to a clinic or a course these are the kinds of thoughts and strategies you'd do well to take with you into that situation.

GET BIGGER

When taught juggling as part of the

"Learning To Learn" course I was always surprised to find the students who were having the greatest difficulty learning off in a corner, out of my view, practicing. One time I even found a few women practicing in the restroom!

I prided myself on being a safe instructor where people could be a learners — uncoordinated, confused and looking a bit silly. But I guess not, because clearly I was driving some of them to hide from me. And, I observed that those who disappeared never produced the same quality result as those who stayed where I could observe what they were doing and offer feedback.

I started to teach my students the idea of "getting bigger," not smaller, when they were having trouble. This means to get MORE visible the worse things are going. If you are having trouble then you WANT to be seen by an instructor. They can quickly assess what is causing the problem and lead you to the next step in a positive direction.

One of the great opportunities and advantages of attending a clinic is that you have one or more instructors observing you with "educated eyes." They can see things

in your actions that you cannot feel. They can advise you to make changes that quickly improve your performance that you, on your own, might never stumble upon.

Get in the middle of the pack and do what you can do! Get what you came for — feedback!

FAKE IT 'TIL YOU MAKE IT (NOT)

There is this funny concept that came out in the '80s that you should act as if you can do something even if you can't and somehow over time this would lead you to an improved performance in the future. There are situations and activities in which this idea can help, but a **learning situation is NOT one of them.**

This is especially true if what you are learning has caused any fear. In a clinic some students feel a palpable pressure to do things in the extreme edges of their comfort zone (the place where it feels like the plane is falling out of the sky). This can be caused by many factors (concern for how you will be perceived by others, wanting to get your monies worth, and so on).

Only YOU know YOU. Instructors offer opportunities for learning different tasks; it is your responsibility to know when you have to say "no."

Fortunately, in the Parelli program *fake it 'til you make it* runs counter to many of the important principles of the program. But individual students can still go way over the top without the instructor ever knowing!

Yes, discomfort is a sign of learning, but out-and-out fear is not. Don't fake it hoping you will make it. Tell your instructor when what you are asked is too far outside your comfort zone.

ASK QUESTIONS

Recently I wrote an article for Savvy Times about the **behavior of asking for help** when you need it. I addressed why so many adult home study students and course graduates who do need help don't ask.

When you are a participant of a clinic your willingness and comfort to ask questions is a very important feature of your success.

There are three distinctions you need to take advantage of by asking questions at a clinic.

Ask someone who can help you!

At a clinic you have one thing you do not have at home: An instructor! They are

there to facilitate your learning process. For all the magic they pull off they CANNOT read your mind!

But, we all know that for some people it is not *comfortable* to talk to the instructor. These learners do something more comfortable and far less useful. They ask other students to help or for feedback on their lessons!

Asking other students for help with your horsemanship is not the best thing you could be doing. You will always find students willing to help, but they are just that — STUDENTS!

Ask questions in a timely fashion.

Being at a clinic means that you are engaged in a learning environment that is very constrained. Hour by hour, your learning is compounded by your understanding of what came before it. Confusion can snowball out of control very quickly. Even asking a question a day late can cause real problems for your instructor and needless to say, yourself.

When something is up, get it handled promptly.

Respect that your questions affect other students.

There is nothing much worse in a learning environment than sharing that environment with a student who has no awareness about the effect their questions and stories have on other students and on the instructor.

I do not think these students wake up in the morning and think, "I know what I'll do. I'll go to class today and annoy the Dickens out of my fellow students by asking lots and lots of questions!"

But they do.

Questions should relate to things that confuse you and that if not cleared up might affect your learning. Questions related to your personal interests or curiosities are better asked out of class time.

DON'T LET YOUR PERSONAL LEARNING STYLE INTERFERE WITH WHAT YOU CAN GET OUT OF THE CLINIC

When I took on the project of seeing if I could accelerate the process of learning the piano for people who wanted to learn to play I had a problem. My learning preference did NOT include action and experimentation! Oh, no not me!

I preferred to read books about playing the piano!

It is obvious that I was not going to

learn to play the piano by reading a book. I had to develop a tolerance for learning in a way that was quite a ways outside my comfort zone. I had to be willing to strike the keys, make mistakes, do this with an instructor, and make horrible noise. It was really hard for me to expand into comfort for a new way of learning that was suitable for my goal! But I did for the sake of achieving that goal.

Many of you have now read the chapter in my book *Great Lies We Live By* that addresses the issue of learning styles or the approaches to learning different students have. Some people may like to get the overall picture first, while others could care less about this. Others prefer to jump right into action and experience new things, while others are more comfortable sitting in a classroom taking notes or on the fence observing.

How you like learning opportunities to be presented becomes your habit and other styles can be outside of your comfort zone — and resisted.

Note that there is nothing wrong with any of these styles. They all produce good learning effects BUT NOT FOR ALL THINGS. You may find that your learning preference is NOT the best for the way learning is presented in clinics.

If that is the case, YOU have to expand to take advantage of what is offered.

Instructors look at their outcomes for the course and THEN decide on the best method to see that you achieve that outcome. Their job is to make this decision then be skilled enough to help all learners of all styles navigate the course.

You don't have to like it for it to be effective!

IN CLOSING

Clinics are special learning events. They can accomplish qualities of learning that other forms such as reading, self-exploration, and so on cannot. But much of what each of you will gain from the clinic is dependent upon how you deal with the methods of teaching that are best suited to clinics and to the environment.

I hope you will take this article out again when you are next heading to a Parelli course.

Now it's time for me to get back into my own course! Wish me well. 🐾

Spooking on the Trail

By Pat Parelli



I'm often asked: "What should I do when my horse spooks on the trail?" I look the person in the eye and say, "Maybe the question should be reworded a little differently — What can I do to better prepare myself and my horse so he doesn't spook on the trail?"

Most people get either annoyed or scared by their horse's spooky behavior, especially when it is compounded by prancing and pulling. I've heard a number of theories about why horses behave like this, and most of them come from a lack of knowledge about the prey animal psyche. "He's competitive, he likes to lead, he just loves to run, he's just stupid," are some of the explanations I hear. If we are truly going to help our horses, the first step is to understand the horse's perspective.

THE PREY ANIMAL PERSPECTIVE

Horses are prey animals, and much of their focus is making sure they are not going to be eaten. They are highly perceptive and are always alert. The farther they get from home, the less secure they feel,

and spooking on the trail is a great example of how a prey animal acts when he senses danger. His senses become incredibly heightened; he can hear, smell and see things that you are totally oblivious to. Relying on those senses is how horses have survived for thousands of years!

It's interesting to note that dominant, sensitive horses are more likely to have trouble on the trail. They are accustomed to making the decisions for the herd — decisions primarily based on keeping the herd safe. Once under the control of their rider, they now find themselves in a position that doesn't allow them to influence the herd. If they do not respect the rider as their alpha, they become emotionally upset and their behavior gets more and more uncontrollable. They may actually be trying to lead the herd to safety. If this isn't possible, then the horse will try to get to the middle of the herd where it is safest.

However, this doesn't mean it's only alpha horses that have trouble on the trail — it can be any horse. But if a horse is sensitive, high-strung, fearful or domi-

nant, there is a greater chance he or she will exhibit this insecure behavior.

WHAT WOULD HE DO IF YOU GOT OFF?

I've conducted experiments where I've had the rider dismount their spooking, prancing horse and turn him loose. The first thing the horse does is head out front and try to get the other horses to follow. When they don't, he runs back and tries again. This usually happens a few times before the horse finally realizes that he's not in charge. Then he'll calm down, settle in behind the lead horse (or horses), drop his head and walk along quite relaxed — no more spooking or prancing! This tells you a lot about the prey animal and herd mentality. As long as they can depend on an alpha, they'll settle right down.

Now, here's the secret: You have to become his alpha. Then he'll never feel alone and afraid on the trail. If you are calm, he'll be calm.

Horses play dominance games with each other every single day to maintain

their “pecking order.” This is something you need to do whenever you are with your horse. Horses vote every day for their leader. Every day! If your leadership is not firmly established before you go out on the trail, you will lose the vote very easily that day. You can’t force your horse to accept you as his alpha — you have to earn it.

You earn it by playing the Seven Games.

PRIOR AND PROPER PREPARATION

How can you and your horse be better prepared before you go out on the trail?

1. Don’t go out the gate until your horse is “left brain.” That means he is thinking and calm.

2. Play the Seven Games until your horse is left brain and accepting your alpha position. Think of it as your pre-ride check, much like the pre-flight check pilots perform before they take the plane off the ground. You can use a lot of “spooky” simulation situations, teaching your horse to get braver through desensitization.

Then practice these simulations from his back. If he spooks, turn him to face the danger, allowing him to back up but not turn away. Practice approach and retreat. Smile, yawn and relax during the whole exercise. Then just carry on as though nothing happened. This may be something you start working on today, so that in a week or two you’ll have a different horse. You can’t just do this exercise once and think the problem is fixed! This is not a motorbike! Your horse is a living, thinking, breathing, emotional animal; the responsibility for his well-being is in your hands.

3. Make sure you can walk, trot and canter on a loose rein, and can easily bend your horse to a stop. If you or your horse is out of sorts that day and you can’t ride on a loose rein, don’t go out on the trail.

4. Perform an emotional assessment of yourself: No matter how scared your

on (no promises that you WILL stay on!) you will most likely become scared stiff and have a bad experience, which will definitely make you lose confidence. If you lose the connection with your horse in the middle of a trail ride, don’t be too embarrassed to get off.

6. If you DO get off, get your horse left-brained on the ground (Seven Games, especially sideways and backward). When playing the Seven Games in this situation, be provocative — bring up the energy in your horse until you can’t bother him. Use lots of obstacles when playing the Seven Games on the trail; don’t just play the Seven Games the same way you do at home. Don’t play them on the flat ground — play them over logs, around rocks, up and down hills, around trees. Don’t let your horse predict what you’re going to do — be unpredictable like the trail is unpredictable. Teach your horse to handle unpredictable things, and stay on the ground until you reach your goal. Then it will be safe to get back on.

Some people have said to me that they’re worried their friends will get impatient and mad if they had

to take time on the ground to get their horse left-brained. My answer to that is: Ride with people who will support you in practicing good horsemanship and who are willing to assist you in being successful with your horse.

And last, but certainly not least, we recommend that you don’t trail ride until you’re past Level 1 and well into Level 2, depending upon how challenging or excitable your horse is.

Happy trails! 🐾



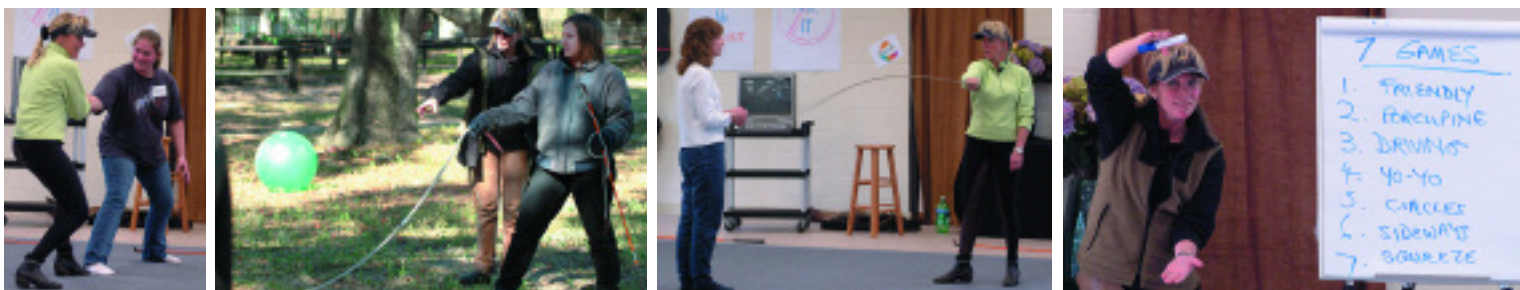
horse got, could you remain totally cool, calm and collected? Most people “spook” worse than their horse — suddenly grabbing with their legs and hands, and getting tighter and tighter. This not only makes your horse spook worse, he continues to spook because he now doubts your confidence and leadership.

5. It’s critical to put your safety first. Being safe will help build your confidence. So if you think you should get off your horse, GET OFF! If you try to stay

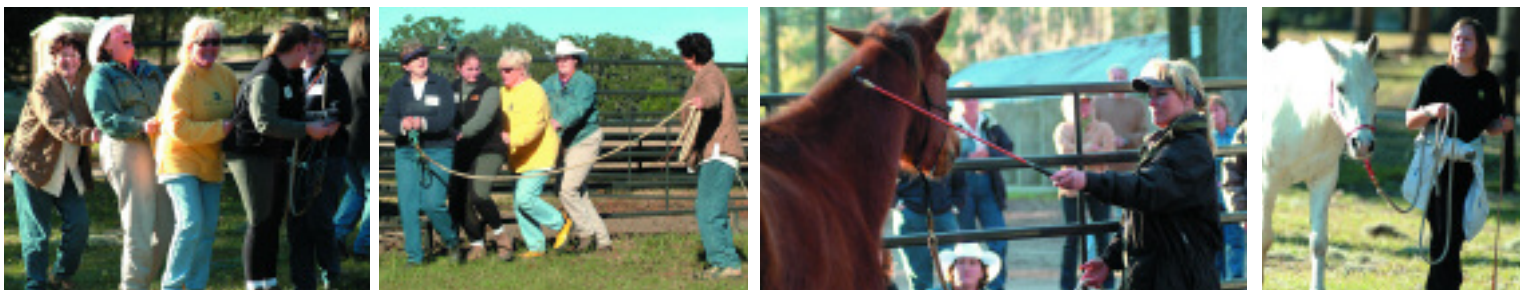
Behind the Scenes of the **New Parelli Level 1 Program** with Linda



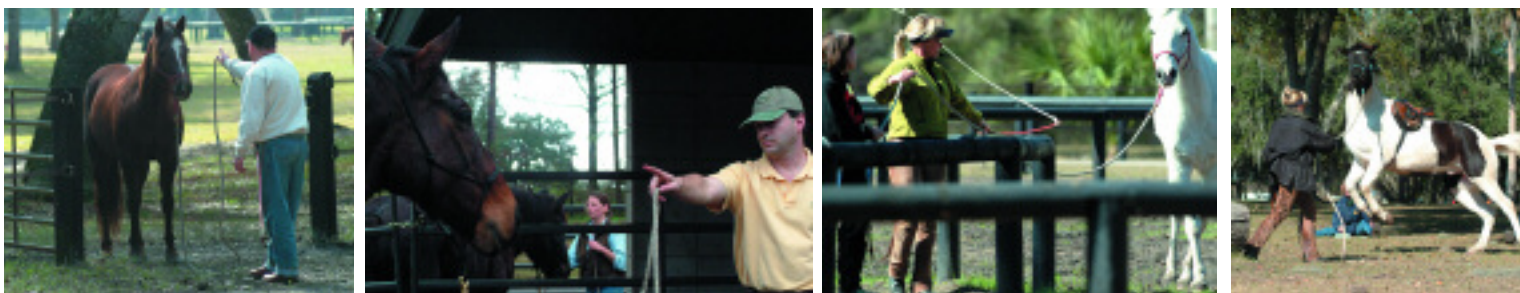
Linda and Stephanie began the Level 1 week with "Success Strategies" for learning, using simulation games like "The Communication Game."



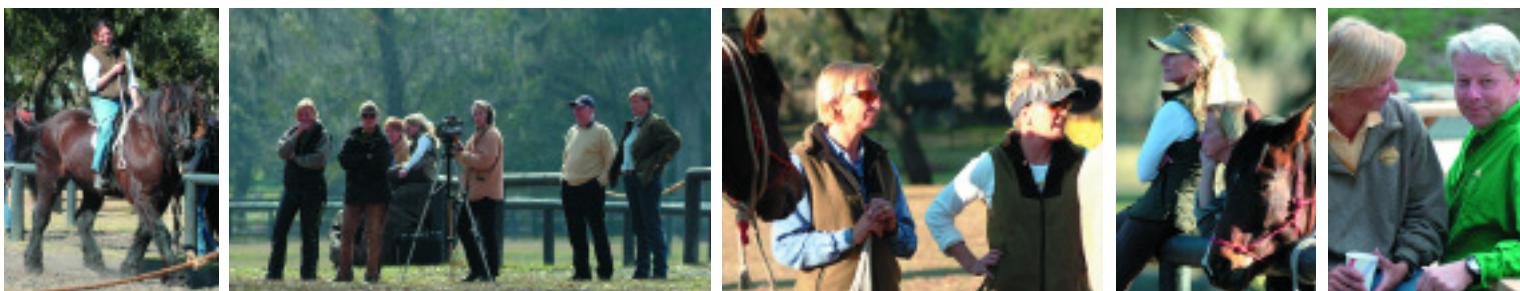
power positions and new rope handling techniques are all important ingredients for anyone wanting to learn to play Pat's Seven Games.



Clear communication using 'correct' body language is the key to a great Seven Games... If your Conga Horse doesn't know what you want,



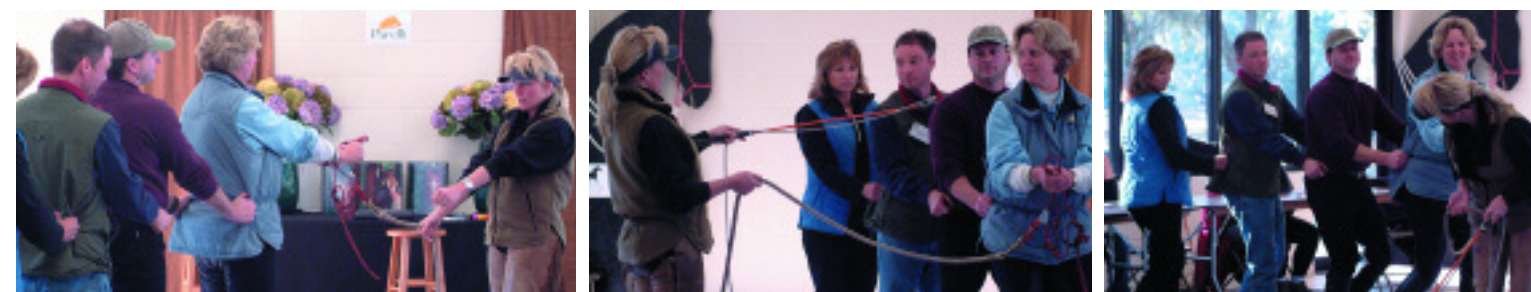
"savvy," back through gates and start playing the Seven Games – all necessary tasks for creating calmer, smarter, braver horses (and humans!).



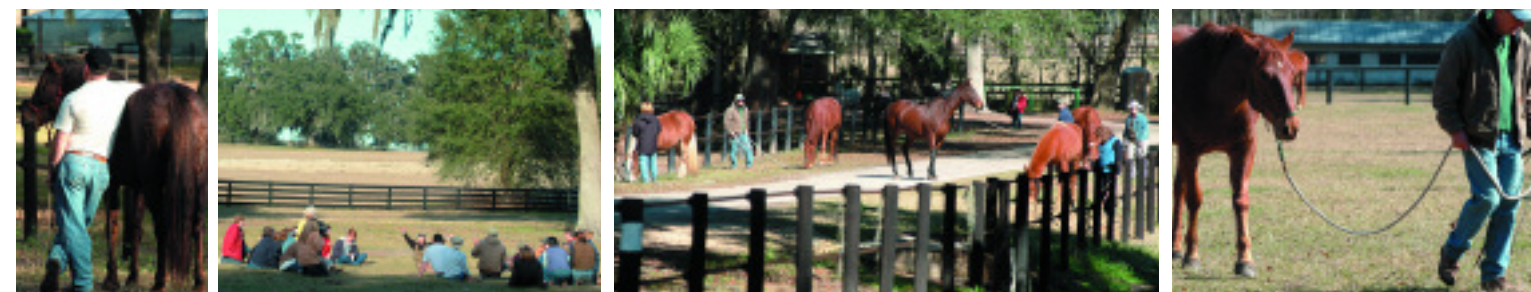
pushing passenger lessons. It was such an amazing week for all involved: Pat, Linda, Stephanie, Helen Hall, Vivienne Black, David Burns,



Simulations offer a powerful way to learn and try new skills before taking them to your horse. *Carrot Sticks, Savvy Strings, "Body Blocks,"*



Human "Conga Horses" were next... Imagine learning to play the *Seven Games* with a horse that can give you feedback on how you're doing!



how will your horse know? The "Conga-debrief" was illuminating! Then it was time to go get the horses, "mosey" to the arena, lead with



Learning to ride with "Fluidity" was next, followed by saddling savvy, preparations for riding, including safe mount/dismount drills, and



Coco, assisting Instructors and the willing students and their horses... *And the result?* The best darn horsemanship program in the world!!!

PHASE 3: FLAP THE END OF YOUR LEAD ROPE OR SAVVY STRING FROM SIDE TO SIDE ACROSS THE BACK OF YOUR OWN SHOULDERS. THIS IS A DRIVING GAME WHICH AFFECTS YOUR HORSE BEHIND THE DRIVE LINE, WHICH BRINGS UP HIS LIFE AND MAKES HIM WANT TO GO FORWARD.



Bringing up your life — what a nice way to talk about urging a horse to use more energy. It's certainly different from kicking to go! Here are some tips on how to do it naturally:

1. Imagine how much energy you want from your horse to get a walk, a trot or a canter... or even a gallop. Then, bring that much energy into your body. Try this simulation by yourself: Relax your body completely at the stand still. Now prepare to break into a run. Just before you take off, notice from where your energy came up. It's usually somewhere from your core, like your diaphragm. There's a kind of tingly energy that can be felt the faster you want to go.

Now do less: See how much energy you need to just walk off casually, or to walk fast, or very, very slowly. This is exactly what you'll need to do when communicating as a rider because whatever you want your horse to do in his body, you need to do in yours.

2. Use your phases:

Phase 1: Focus on where you want to go and bring up your life according to the gait/speed you want. At the same time, tense the muscles in your buttocks. (Pat

has a great way of getting you to do the right thing: imagine you're holding a quarter between your cheeks!) If your horse doesn't respond, maintain this feel and progress to Phase 2.

Phase 2: Begin to squeeze with your legs, and turn your toes out and down to be able to squeeze all the way to your heels. If your horse still does not respond, maintain the squeeze and progress to Phase 3.

Phase 3: Flap the end of your lead rope or savvy string from side to side across the back of your own shoulders. This is a Driving Game which affects your horse behind the Drive Line, which brings up his life and makes him want to go forward.

Phase 4: If he still doesn't go, speed up the rhythm of flapping on your shoulders and then allow the savvy string or lead rope to grow longer until it touches your horse on the back of Zone 4 on both sides.

The moment your horse makes an effort to move forward, immediately release your legs and cheeks and stop the motion with the savvy string, but maintain the life in your body. If your horse stops, then rub him and begin your phases again.

3. Think about your horse leaving out in front of you. A lot of riders lean forward when asking their horse to go, which puts the weight on the front end and disengages the hind end. By disengaging in this context I mean that the horse can't get much traction and his hind legs tend to get strung out behind. Imagine that you always want "more horse out in front of you" than behind you, so drop your shoulders behind you and invite your horse to move off that way. It's kind of like squeezing a tube of toothpaste — the angle of your squeeze changes according to where you want the contents to go!

4. What NOT to do:

a) Don't smack your horse. This will most likely cause him to buck. The Driving Game is the most important part of Phases 3 and 4 and you'll get better response by speeding it up rather than spanking harder. One big slap is rather rude.

b) Don't push with your seat. As soon as your horse moves forward he needs to feel comfortable; he needs to feel the harmony of the rider. If you drive and push with your seat to make the horse keep going forward, you'll make him want to

do less and even to stop because he's uncomfortable.

c) Don't try to prevent your horse from breaking gait. Like pushing with your seat, the more you try to prevent your horse from doing something, the less responsible he becomes and the less he uses his brain. Allow him to make the change, then come up through your phases as necessary. You'll find that he offers more if you nag him less! Plus, he'll realize that you leave him alone when he's doing what you want and you only cause him to be uncomfortable when he stops doing it. This can be a very challenging thing for you because humans are good at anticipating what might happen and want to prevent it. When it comes to horses, however, it works against you. They don't learn anything and it affects their attitude.

d) Don't pull on the reins just when he starts to go. It's important that you harmonize with your horse and he doesn't get jerked in the mouth if you lose your balance. He'll start to get anxious about being asked to go. High-spirited horses especially can become more impulsive. A good way to keep your balance in transitions is to push your fist or hand into your horse's mane — the Pushing Position — which keeps you totally connected with your horse. 🐾



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Meet the Dean, Neil Pye

by Laura Dollar



Your official title is Dean of the Parelli Centers and you're a 5-Star Instructor. What was your career previous to Parelli?

For nearly 17 years I was in the fast food business back home in Australia. I ended up having two Kentucky Fried Chicken stores and was in the process of going into multiple stores when I was faced with the decision to either go with Parelli or stay there. I decided to come here.

What was your first experience with Parelli?

I used to tell this story a lot, and I haven't in a long time. I never had horses growing up. It wasn't until adulthood. In fact in my 30's when I finally could afford a horse, I bought one. Bought myself trouble. Couldn't get him to go. Couldn't get him to slow. Whatever I wanted he did the opposite.

My neighbor had horses and seemed to know what he was doing. We'd talk about horses and how frustrated I'd be.

He said, "Look, there's an American guy coming next week, and you should go and see him. He's a bit of a different duck. His name is Pat Parelli. Neil, knowing you, I think you'd enjoy this guy."

At that moment my neighbor's wife came out. We were neighborly, but if she saw it as up, I saw it as down. If she saw it as black, I saw it as white. She said, "What are you guys talking about?"

I said, "I was just talking to Rick. He suggested I go and see a guy called Pat Parelli."

"Ah... Pat Parelli! He'll teach you how to get killed by a horse."

And the minute she said that I thought, "I must go."

The next Saturday I got my wife to take me there. In the first ten min-

utes Pat made more sense than anything we'd heard before. Now granted we hadn't been in to horses for long, but before meeting Pat if I asked one question, I got 10 absolutely different answers. Some of the advice we were given was down right dangerous. In that first ten minutes listening to Pat suddenly I realized he told me more, and I understood more about my problems which were mine not the horse's. Up until then I'd been blaming the horse.

At the end of it all we bought everything there was to buy, became consummate students. Everything changed. That was 1991.

From then on it was a trip you wouldn't have imagined or dreamed. And even to be sitting here now talking to you in the capacity I am... I wouldn't have picked it. Such is the passion you get for this program.

How can you make the commitments expected to become an instructor? I know there wasn't as much of a program when you were becoming an instructor, but how did you reach your goals?

It was easy. I never planned to be an Instructor. I was a businessman, and I was just coming to Pat for information so I could be safe and enjoy my horse. The more information I got, the more I decided I'd take it further. Then one day Linda said to me, "Neil, you should instruct."

I said, "I'm not interested in instructing. I'm self indulgent. I just want the information."

She said, "Let me tell you. If you start to teach this, you'll learn it better."

"Oh, is that right?" I thought, "Yeah, in that case with the invitation I'll learn a little bit."

When I started to teach the program in the systematic way Pat wants it taught I started to appreciate it more. Not only as a student but as a facilitator. I enjoyed seeing that if people stuck to the program and followed the sequences, you could count on the results. That's a rare thing, a duplicatable result. It's all about horses, but then it extends into other parts of your life.

I look back now and I was just fortunate. Pat and Linda offered me opportunity after opportunity, and I always said yes.

What are the top three problems or pitfalls you see students fall into?

Number one: They get frustrated with themselves, and think they should learn this quicker than they do. I've come to better understand how humans take in information, and it's completely different to the way we think we should. This is just something you can't hurry. As Pat so well says, "It's a prey animal and a predator." To get them to come together takes more than a handshake. It doesn't work that way. It takes effort. Respect is hard to get and easy to lose. The human really has to make some major changes, develop personally, be open and frank with yourself to know your strengths and also your shortcomings and then do something about them. So that's the first thing, their unrealistic expectations of themselves.

Second is they're in a hurry. They just want to get it done. The thing is, Pat and Linda inspire people so well with the Love, Language and Leadership on tour, and they see the dream. But the dream and the reality can be such that the product and the process are different.

Everyone wants to have a marvelous relationship with the horse, but what you have to do to become that takes a lot from the human. A lot of folks when they realize this is simple but not easy, it's all too hard. If you can see the rewards, it's marvelous. For most folks, if it doesn't come easy, they move on to something else.

The third thing... sticking to the program. People find that hard. As Pat says, "Everyone wants to go to heaven, but no one's prepared to die." Can you show me the Level 3 stuff first? Make me look good early. I don't want to go through that first stage.

What's the most rewarding part of being an instructor?

Seeing the change it makes for people. When I first came into the horse business I used to hear stories of people who had horses in their lives for 10, 20, 30 years. Even though they had horses, it didn't show. To teach and see folks really start to enjoy their horses for the first time... They may have owned horses, but they never really enjoyed them because perhaps they were frightened of them. They loved to have them, own them, smell them, talk about them, but they couldn't actually get much done.

The satisfaction and joy people experience when they learn to communicate is rewarding. I've seen people get very emotional. I love seeing the pleasure it brings to people. They have this love, but they didn't have the language and the leadership. What we teach unlocks that part for them.

Tell me about the first horse you took to Level 3.

He was a Quarter Horse, palomino, had a background in Western performance. He was a good, amiable horse. If I had to back track that's probably the biggest problem students have is their first horse... In a

perfect world we'd like it to be their easiest, but it's the one they've got. And usually they've got it without much knowledge. Either it was cheap or it was pretty. Not necessarily any of the reasons that you need to go through Level 3. I was fortunate enough to have a really nice horse, great teacher. I went on to do demonstrations all around Australia with him. He was a really good horse to learn with. His name was Ed.

Do you have a horse now that you're playing with?

Back home I have a Quarter Horse mare. I don't get to see her much. Here I ride either one of Pat's stallions, Liberty, or another Quarter Horse, Idaho, or whoever's available, really. Unfortunately I spend more of my time managing and working than with a horse. That's the way it is for now.

What are your current horsemanship goals for yourself?

Getting to Level 3 is one thing. What you learn post Level 3 is pivotal. It's a huge achievement to get your Level 3 and at times pre that you don't think you'll get there. Once you get there you're almost humbled. As Pat says you've now just gotten a license to learn. You're just starting. The glorious thing is it's never ending. You just want to progress. Now that I'm 47, it's not a race anymore. It was to get to Level 3. As it unfolds it's just a process I enjoy. Whether you're 47 or 87, I imagine you'll still be making little breakthroughs. You're looking for progress not perfection. What things you've done and learned now you really want to understand why you did them and how you got them done. So often going forward is going backwards, but with a different understanding. Even though all horses are similar; they're all different. You have to apply the basics that Pat and Linda have taught you. So you really do look at life from the horse's point of view. 🐾

All Finesse tasks are to be completed with breakaway ties attached to one side of the snaffle for safety.

FINESSE #1 FRISBEE FLEXION

Set-up: Frisbee & Tent Pegs

(Place the frisbee on the ground and pin with tent pegs.)

Equipment: Saddle & Snaffle equipped with Breakaway Tie

Goal: Have your horse place its front foot on the frisbee. The horse must remain there for 7 seconds with Lateral Flexion or a Soft Feel. The Steward will determine which foot the horse should place on the frisbee.

10 Points - with Lateral Flexion for 7 seconds

20 Points - with Lateral Flexion for 7 seconds and then with Soft Feel for 7 seconds

No points if:

- the breakaway tie breaks
- the horse takes its hoof off the frisbee
- flexions are not held for 7 seconds

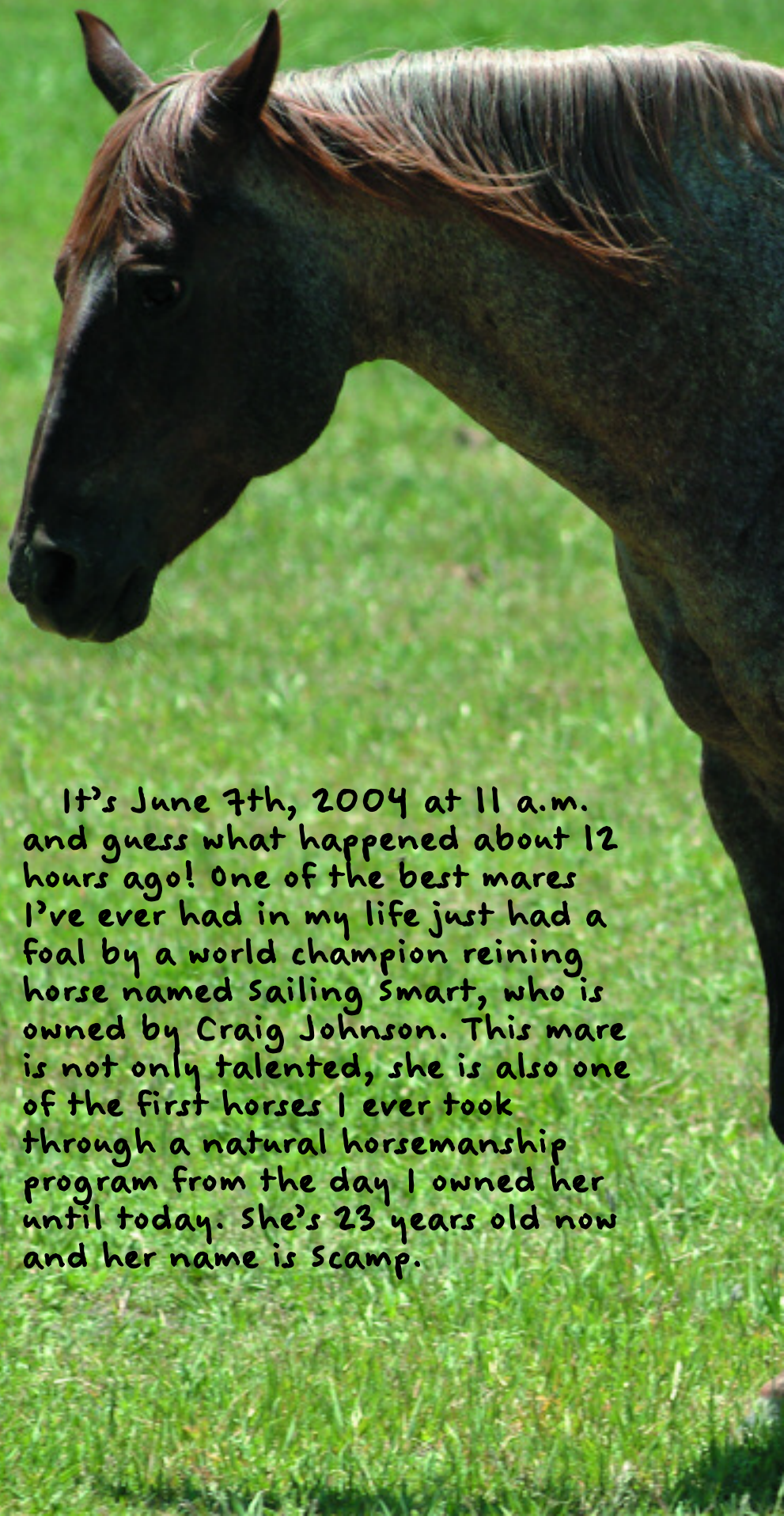


FRISBEE



For those of you new to Parelli: Tournaments are a fun way to put your savvy to the test in a friendly competition. The goal is to have a U.S. competition to test your knowledge of the Seven Games in all Four Savvys where the winners would go on to compete internationally!

We've featured just a few of the tasks in each issue of Savvy Times. Visit www.parellisavvyclub.com for the complete Tournament booklet.



It's June 7th, 2004 at 11 a.m. and guess what happened about 12 hours ago! One of the best mares I've ever had in my life just had a foal by a world champion reining horse named Sailing Smart, who is owned by Craig Johnson. This mare is not only talented, she is also one of the first horses I ever took through a natural horsemanship program from the day I owned her until today. She's 23 years old now and her name is Scamp.

MEETING SMART SEVEN

By Pat Parelli



I got home late last night after my son Caton and I had been driving around all day doing errands. We got back at 11:30 and when we drove the pickup alongside the mare pasture, I thought hmmm, why aren't those mares in the middle of the field where they usually are? Sure enough, two hours later I was awakened and told that Scamp had delivered her foal. By the time I got out to the pasture the foal was dry and the hooves were hard, which tells me that the colt was probably about three hours old — which also told me that the foaling was happening just about when I thought it was. If I hadn't been so lazy last night and had gotten out there and found Scamp, I could have watched the actual foaling.

There are two things I want to share with you. One, I'm going to chronicle this colt's life; you'll be able to follow his development through our natural horsemanship program in Savvy Club DVDs and the Savvy Times magazine. I'm going to share my concepts and what's worked for me with foals — which may not be what you've experienced before.

Second, I want to share my ideas about foal imprinting and early learning. Imprinting, which happens in the first few hours of life, is something that prey animals like horses, deer, geese, and wildebeests all experience. They imprint to the first thing they sense when they're born or hatched — they imprint to silhouettes, motions, shapes, smells, sounds. Everything inside them says, "That's my mother." If you imprint a foal properly, the foal will imprint to its dam if you don't intervene too much, and he will view you as an aunt or uncle. You need to be careful, however; sometimes humans interrupt the dam/foal connection and the foal will imprint to the human.

A friend of mine used to lose about 70% of his foal crop each year to mountain lions until he put bells on the mares. It seems as though the bells keep the big cats at bay. Now he's only lost one foal in 12 years.

After the initial imprinting, everything else falls into the category of learning. Horses learn from the moment they're born until the moment they graduate to horse heaven. One of the oldest horses we've had in our program was 43 years old and he had a trailer-loading problem for 43 years. After two days of Parelli Natural Horsemanship, he thought he invented trailer loading. This just

proves what incredible learners horses are throughout their lives.

When Scamp foaled last night, she was in a 15-acre pasture with other mares. Many people want their mares to foal out in a clean stall, but I prefer for the mare to be in a natural environment. When



Scamp was getting ready to foal, all the other mares went wherever she did, forming a circle around her. In nature, when a foal is born, it's the job of all the horses in the herd to protect that foal. On the ranch here we've had several foals born where the stallion was in the pasture with the mare — just like it would be out in the wild. It's the stallion's job to protect the mare and foal. After the first few days of a foal's life, however, all the horses seem to relax about their job of protecting the foal.

In the next 168 hours (one week), I want to have as much interaction as possible with this mare and foal. I want Scamp to nicker to me every time I come into the pasture. There are two things this mare loves: Winnie's Cookies and to be scratched, which is what I'll offer every time I visit so she'll look forward to seeing me. Pretty soon the foal will say, "Hey mom, look who's coming!" That's what I want. If

the mare was leery of people, then the foal would be leery too. I try to use things like drawing the mare to me to get the baby to come to me. But I never put any pressure on either mare or foal; I always let the mare just be with the foal naturally.

The only real plan in my first encounter with this colt was to develop a relationship based on trust. My intent is to come out several times every day for a week to visit with Scamp and Smart Seven. I'd love it if the mare would come running every time she heard my whistle. I want to create a relationship with the foal simply by letting him watch his mom get excited about seeing me. Whether it's cookies or scratches that initially attract

SUPER MARE SCAMP



I first met Scamp when she was a weanling. As I stepped into the corral, I immediately fell in love with her. The breeder/owner brought her to my ranch in California to be started when she was a two-year-old. I liked her so much that I bought her.

This mare has done all kinds of things and is the only horse I've marked a 76 score on in the cutting arena. She's been a family horse for my kids, and Caton learned to work cows on her.

I'll never forget the time in Las Vegas, Nevada when she helped me start a wild mustang in front of an audience at a benefit for the Special Olympics. I had an hour and 45 minutes to start this wild horse. I was on Scamp with a saddle but no bridle. I would swing a rope at the mustang and every time that horse looked at me I'd stop swinging my rope. Reverse psychology at its finest!

But the exciting part isn't what I did; it's what Scamp did. Whenever that mustang would look at us, Scamp would stop and back up. Pretty soon it was as though she was training this mustang without me. She knew so much about the whole natural starting process and had helped me so many times, that even without a bridle she knew everything I was thinking and wanting her to do. This is probably the smartest mare I've ever ridden.

Scamp, it still allows me to be part of the herd.

Here's what happened today. When I hiked high up into the brush and trees in the mare's pasture, I whistled for Scamp. The moment I spotted her, I immediately sat on a stump. Rule number one is don't catch your horse, let your horse catch you. So I sat on the stump and opened up a bag of Winnie's Cookies. When I first saw the foal, who was only 12 hours old, he was lying down. Scamp started to come over to me, and the foal got up and followed her. A couple of the colt's "aunts" also tagged along. In fact, for a brief moment the foal nuzzled on Presto, another one of Scamp's get.

There was a certain noise I was glad to hear Scamp make — a low, deep, throaty nicker that told the foal I was okay. Smart Seven almost immediately began to be curious about me. I wish I could describe how that felt! There he was, long wobbly legs, big nose, twitching ears — checking me out. Then he started to nurse on his dam in my presence. I just stayed with Scamp, putting no pressure or demands on her. Horses train horses better than people train horses, and in this moment the mare was teaching the foal to be confident around humans.

I halted Scamp and led her toward the video camera. Smart Seven followed her, which also meant he was following me. I intentionally put myself on the same side of the mare as the foal, so he could eventually make the transition from following Scamp to following me.



I played with the 12-foot Line around Smart Seven as I gave Scamp her Winnie's Cookies. I simply placed the rope around his chest and let it touch his body everywhere. It was amazingly easy to get him to back up from just the smallest amount of pressure on the chest. Then I kneeled down in front of him so he would become curious about me. I scratched him and touched him with my heart by putting my heart in my hand. I want this foal to think I'm his very best friend.

By putting the rope around Smart Seven's chest, I wanted him to learn to yield to pressure, to be aware of feeling something. Horses are placed in our human environment and need to become accustomed to pressure — for instance, pressure of the fence, pressure of the lead rope, pressure of being tied. I used the 12-foot Line to ask Smart Seven to give to pressure, quickly releasing the pressure as he responded. Remember,

Here's a word of caution: For the first week after foaling, a mare's hormones are still fluctuating, so be very careful. Hormones allow the mare to be a super mom to make sure her foal survives. I've seen people get hurt with the family's sweet pet mare, trusting that everything would be fine and not being sensitive to the mare's protective nature.

Be cautious and alert. When a mare's hormones are surging, she will push the human around. It's important to understand that she's just being protective. There is no need or reason to get after her or discipline her.

pressure motivates and release teaches.

As I put light pressure on his tiny chest, I got in time with his legs as he backed; I stopped when he stopped, and stepped when he stepped. Pretty soon those movements transitioned to him getting in rhythm with my steps! Foals are so little that people tend to manhandle them. But this lesson proves that we don't need to.

Then I asked Smart Seven to follow me by putting my hand on his offside shoulder, using a light, rhythmic press-and-release on his rump and shoulder, followed by touching and rubbing him all over. Be sure you stroke and rub a foal instead of patting him, even as a gesture of reward. It took me 45 years to realize that neither women nor horses like being patted!

During your first few initial exposures to a foal, however, don't worry about trying to touch him. Just move the mare around until you're next to the foal. If the foal is on the opposite side of the mare from you, simply move the mare.

When you first touch the foal, touch him on the withers or back. Don't go for the neck; foals know instinctively that they're vulnerable in that area — that's where a mountain lion would go for the kill. Get the foal confident about being touched; then he'll want to be touched. Don't worry and don't feel pressured; it's no big deal. Just be present and allow things to be natural.

Simple guidelines apply to foal imprinting. Step one: During the first two hours let him know that you're part of the family. Step two: Handle his feet and touch him all over. Try not to interfere with the mare; a lot of people interrupt nature, which often creates more problems than help.

If you miss the first two hours of the foal's life like I did, don't worry about it. You can still participate in the early learning phase; the first 168 hours are the most important. Most importantly, make the critical investment of being with the foal. Get him to trust your decision, how to follow a feel, and how to follow your leadership.

On the day he passed away, my mentor Ronnie Willis said there are four things you never want to do with a horse: Never take away their confidence, curiosity, sensitivity or their dignity. For instance,

foals want to taste and feel everything. I've seen people flick, snap or slap the foal for wanting to taste or mouth things. That punishment takes away all the things that Ronnie mentioned.

The initial introduction to a foal is about building a relationship. It's not about halter breaking. In the next couple of days I'll come out several times each day, play with Smart Seven, scratch him, ask him to follow my lead. It's all about confidence training, sensitivity training, allowing the curiosity, and admiring the dignity. 🐾



WHAT ABOUT HALTERING?

You've probably seen a lot of people try to put a halter on the foal right at birth. As you know, part of my philosophy is to watch what everyone else does and do the opposite.

One of the worst things I ever had to do was capture an older foal that had the halter put on when he was one day old. Foals grow at a rapid rate, and the foal's head literally grew around the halter because they couldn't catch him. Rather than creating a relationship, these folks thought they could just put the halter on at day one and then simply capture him at a later date.

The message here is don't get in a big hurry about the halter. It's all about the relationship.

A Horsemanship Experience BIGGER Than Anything You've Ever Dreamed...

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PARELLI-TRAINED THOROUGHBRED IN THE WINNER'S CIRCLE!

Here's what Sheila Zeltt, of Wilmington, Delaware, wrote about her race horse and its Parelli training:

"I brought my off-the-track Thoroughbred mare Lacey, to the Level 2 clinic Nita Jo Rush taught in Washington, Pennsylvania a couple of months ago and made tremendous progress. We spent some time at dinner and then again the next day talking about the racing industry and the abuses within it.

"I just wanted to let you know that one of my race horses won yesterday, a turf race going five furlongs (5/8 of a mile). No drugs. Stormy (aka Sweep the Shore) is a five-year-old gelding. We've had him for almost two years. I had played the Seven Games with him quite a bit, more to entertain him and give him something to do, than because he was a problem. He gets bored very easily, so I figured "cross-training" him would be a good answer. Racehorse conditioning is rather monotonous.

"He used to be quite rowdy galloping on the track, but about a month ago I instituted galloping him with "modified pushing passenger lessons." I still ride him in a racetrack exercise saddle (half tree) and still stand in my stirrups to let him gallop. But I put my hands on his neck in the PPL position, and he's allowed to go as fast or as slow as he wants within his gait (either jogging to warm up or galloping to actually train), anywhere on the track that he wants, as long as he doesn't change direction, gait, or leave the track. Our training track has no rails at all, so this was a bit unnerving at first for me. Working on my emotional fitness I guess. He also isn't allowed to buck, which took some explaining! On his own he has developed a good steady pace, with a soft contact on the reins (he used to bow his neck and pull like a freight train), changing leads every time he's supposed to with no fighting, just a change in my position. Success, I think.

"Wrack one up for the little guy in racing!

"My goal is to train my race horses using Parelli, and although I don't really know enough yet to do it completely, I'm implementing what I can do safely. One of my goals is to train my racehorses as naturally as possible via Parelli. Not there yet by any means, but closer every day. I'm getting close to the end of Level 2 with my mare (guess I need to start sending in my assessments). After I finish Level 3, I'd love to go to Colorado and ride in Pat's Level 4 class and see just how naturally I can train racehorses! Sometimes it's hard to be patient! I want it NOW!"



NAME CHANGE AT THE RANCH

Perhaps you've noticed that we refer to our Centers as the Pat Parelli Centers — a name change from the International Savvy Centers. It's now official!

NEW Releases!

Visit Parelli.com for more Information on the

New Level 1, Parelli Essentials and Stephanie's new Book Move Closer, Stay Longer!

COVER-ALL BUILDING SYSTEMS LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE

Cover-All Building Systems (we have one of their pre-engineered, steel-framed tension-membrane structures at the Pat Parelli Center in Colorado) has launched its new customer web site: www.coverall.net. This new site offers testimonials from customers, video clips of Cover-All customers and their buildings, profiles of building models in PDF format, more pictures, and additional product information. Check it out!

ANOTHER ENDURANCE VICTORY FOR TRACI FALCONE

Remember the story in the January 2004 issue of Savvy Times about Traci Falcone and Prince, the dynamic duo who competed in 50-mile endurance rides with only a saddle and Savvy String between them? Well, here's another chapter in that success story: Traci and Prince successfully completed the 50th Annual Tevis Cup 100 Mile Ride — the toughest 100 mile ride in the world in the same manner. Imagine 100 miles over the rugged Sierra Nevada mountains — with just a simple Savvy String! That's partnership to the highest degree. Congratulations, Traci and Prince!

METAPHOR LEAPING TO PARELLI SUCCESS

A horse named Metaphor, owned by Susan Harding — group publishing director for all Primedia equine titles (*Equus*, *Horse and Rider*, *Practical Horseman*, *Dressage Today* and *Arabian Horse World*) — has leaped his way into the hearts of everyone at the Pat Parelli Center in Colorado. Including Pat Parelli.

A big, handsome, grey PMU gelding (1/4 Percheron, 3/4 Thoroughbred), Metaphor first appeared at the Parelli Love, Language and Leadership tour stop in Virginia at the end of May. Pat Parelli fell in love at first sight — no surprise, since Pat likes horses who are challenges. However, the biggest challenge with Metaphor, it seems, is to keep him contained. Literally. Metaphor typically assesses whatever enclosure he's in (field fence, buck fence, stall), sets back on his haunches, and AWAY goes Metaphor.

The story of Pat, Metaphor and his journey with the Parelli program will appear in an issue of *Equus Magazine* (hooray!) in 2005.



WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE THE O'CONNORS?

David O'Connor knows as well as anyone the highs and lows of the equestrian world.

As a competitor with three Olympic medals to his name, including gold from Sydney 2000, the reigning Team World Champion was aiming to make Athens 2004 Games his third Olympics, but missed the cut during the last U.S. selection trials at a training camp in Great Britain.

David O'Connor is now concentrating on the role he assumed in January, 2003: President of the recently formed United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). He took the position as he was preparing for Athens selection, being one of five alternates who shipped their horses to England.

"I am ready to fulfill my new role; I have been competing long enough," said David regarding his semi-retirement from the international scene of eventing. "It will be very different but nevertheless interesting."

David plans to keep riding on a more than recreational level as he brings on new horses. "I have a very good show jumper in my stable and also a very promising horse for dressage. I will concentrate on dressage from now on, but the time for international events and team championships is definitely over," he said.

Karen O'Connor continues to compete at high levels. Look for more events with the O'Connors and the Parellis teaching together. Exciting stuff!

KAREN ROHLF INVITED TO DEMONSTRATE WITH WALTER ZETTL!

Karen Rohlf (Parelli Associate Professional for Dressage) writes:

"I wanted to tell you about something exciting! I was just invited to do a demonstration with Walter Zettl.

"Walter Zettl is a German dressage trainer but has been living in Canada where he has been the coach for the Canadian Olympic and Young Riders teams. He has spent the last few years on a clinic tour of the U.S. sponsored by the United States Dressage Federation.

"He is known for putting kindness, softness and love of the horse first. He saw David Lichman at the Western States Horse Expo in California and was impressed. Mr. Zettl said he wished the

people in his clinic knew how to ride without pulling on the reins! I took this as a good sign and made contact with him. He said he was 'so happy to know there were others doing dressage that put true harmony and lightness first... people need to know that dressage does not need to be forced.'

"Mr. Zettl said he wanted to meet me, and since he is doing a clinic in Reddick, Florida he asked if I could bring a horse to the clinic to demonstrate with him! There are over 50 riders interviewing to have a lesson with him. He will draw serious dressage students, and of course the real value is to have Parelli in front of the USDF under the invitation and support of Walter Zettl."



Q&A with Linda Parelli

street in front of my house, although it has involved some ingenuity. My horse is leading much better than before, even just recently has been responding to lighter touches, and I think I'm getting slowly better at consistency. But when we get some distance away from home she often starts charging past me, and acts spookish. Rather than push her through the area causing concern, I try approach and retreat and some figure 8s, and that seems to help. And with time, her safe and comfortable zone has increased beyond the area in front of the house. At this rate it will take me a long time even to get to the arena, and I'm not looking forward to spooking events on that busy street. She is impulsive as well. I'm wondering if I should just keep at it or maybe focus on trailer loading before doing any significant riding lessons. Or maybe I'm missing something.

The community arena I have access to is about a half mile from my home, and on a busy street (6 lanes). The trail to the arena is also on a busy street and is not very wide. I have progressed pretty well through Level 1 on the

You may not be ready to take her to the community arena for some time yet... two to six months. This is because she does not feel safe enough with you when it comes to that level of insecurity or fear related to external stimuli like traffic.

I think you are doing the right thing with approach and retreat but if your horse is above average when it comes to sensitivity, spookiness, tolerance, spirit, etc. it is going to take more savvy and leadership from you before she realizes that you are more important than anything that is going on. If your horse is still thinking she needs to save herself rather than trusting your judgment, all that means is that she doesn't yet see you as a good enough leader.

Some people, with horses who are more low in spirit, less naturally spooky, etc. will be able to do what you want to more quickly... like within Level 1. But in your case it's probably going to take Level 2 savvy for you before she thinks you're good enough! And it may be around half way through Level 2, not all the way which should be good news for you. If you are truly dedicated to being able to shift your horse's perceptions and behaviors then you need to be prepared to not go there for a little while. Rushing it does not yield safe results.

Work on yourself and your understanding of how to be "bigger and better" than whatever is going on in your horse's mind. My horse Remmer used to be extremely overreactive and spooky. It was a year before I could take him more than 500 yards from his pasture (to the arenas and honeycomb liberty facility in Pagosa) and therefore out onto trails without it being life-threatening for me!! Safety is the key. Keep checking for where those confidence lines are and graduate from one to the next. Little by little.





Photo courtesy of Ginny Sue Lewis

Our Journey of Commitment

by Ginny Sue Lewis



Photo by David Ulloa

If I could share just one highlight of my first year working with fellow students to create their perfect Parelli presentations, it would have to be this: our journey of commitment.

While each of us can have such different circumstances, it seems that our genuine commitment to "Keepin' it Natural" is equal.

Each of us holds a different set of circumstances that greatly affect the path we are on. For some, they are blessed to be "born" on a horse while others are blessed later to discover this indescribable addiction to and fondness of the beloved equine. Ah... and then the discovery of Pat, Linda and their program to help us learn and understand the meaning of true communication and total partnership.

Have you studied the program for years or have you recently been introduced? What brought you to find Parelli? For some it may have been a dangerous experience while others perhaps just knew there was a better way.

How has your journey unfolded? For some it comes fast and simple while for others it can be long and hard.

As I hit personal struggles with Level 1, I was gifted the best bit of advice I'd ever been given. "RELAX... THIS IS YOUR JOURNEY!" The light switched on for me at that moment. The worry of the clock ticking by on my progress stopped, and the serious progress began. With that, I've NEVER looked back.

I'd like to share with you my meeting Shirley and her

Partner, Twenty-Four-Carrot Cody.

Their journey with Parelli began in March of 1996. Together, they had the great opportunity to ride in one of the last Level 1 clinics conducted by Pat and Linda. Shirley was hooked. She enjoyed the awesome experience of the first Savvy Conference where she met many wonderful people. For Shirley, that experience promoted an even stronger desire to pursue the Levels program.

She found more challenges at that

time without the now available step-by-step program.

By September of 1996, she and Cody officially graduated Level 1. As they excitedly began Level 2, Shirley sustained a rotator cuff injury requiring surgery. If that was not discouraging enough, the procedure had not been done properly and a corrective surgery was performed six months later. More than a year was lost for physical advancement in Level 2.

In 2000, Shirley made the difficult decision to sell her farm due to the extreme terrain. The relocation process was lengthy and again, another obstacle.

The Conference that year sent her to her new home greatly inspired (of course!) to run blindly into yet another obstacle: the discovery of a brain tumor which required surgery. Shirley was blessed to learn of its benign nature and no further complications were present. A rather quick recovery was a pleasant treat with all things considered.

As she pursued Level 2, a riding helmet was necessary and with sensitivity to the sun, she was limited to short sessions lasting no longer than an hour at a time.

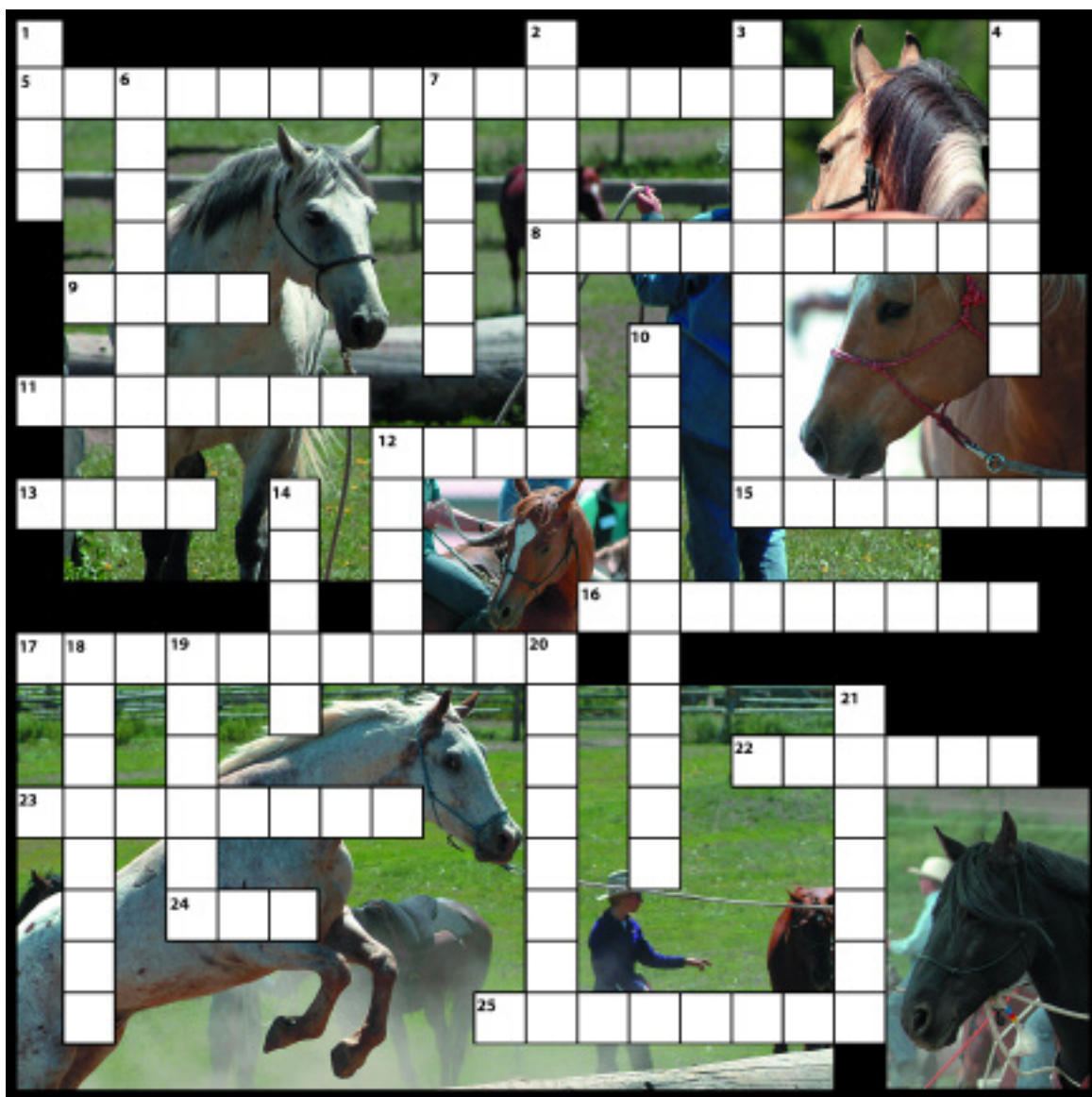
Not only did Shirley find herself hindered with obstacles, her Partner has suffered with his own physical limitations. Having a history of COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), breathing is often a struggle for Cody. Throughout their journey together, there were and continue to be times that Cody just cannot be used. Shirley and Cody's journey with such obstacles has taken time. Fortunately, a very strong focus and continual exposure to supportive information and educational aids has proven to help Shirley grow stronger.

As we advance in our journey, remember... we are REQUIRED to place obstacles in front of our horses. This promotes learning. The obstacles may be placed purposely by us or may be out of our control. What we DO have control of is how we "react" or "respond" to such obstacles.

With this exciting and long awaited accomplishment of completing Level 2, Shirley and I had a great time creating her presentation. It was important to have a special reference to Level 1 and therefore, we used both the red and blue strings together with feathers that Cody would often wear in his mane.

Shirley hangs her presentation with great pride and appreciates its value as a constant reminder of the time she has invested in her horsemanship journey as she and Cody now pursue Level 3.

Take great pride in yourself and your dedication. When you reach whatever obstacles you are meant to reach, grow from them, and remember this quote by Frank A. Clark: "If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere." 🐾



PASSING IT ON by Megan's mom, Cathi Ellis

Seven-year-old Megan is an only child and her animals are her siblings. Megan's grandparents purchased Tolanka's Successor for Megan on her 5th birthday. Tolanka's Successor (TG) is a 24-year-old registered Pony of the Americas that has been shown all of his life. He has definitely been there, done that.

I went alone to my first Parelli event at Perry, Georgia in 2002. I was so excited and wanted my family to see what I had witnessed that I took Megan, along with my mother-in-law and several close "horsey" friends, to the Parelli tour in Andalusia, Alabama. Megan was hooked! She said, "I want to do that, mom!" I began to read the Pocket Guides to her and showing her the games with my Arabian, Beau (we were working on Level 1).

Megan is so very natural and things seem to come so easy. She was doing better with my Arabian than I was in no time! She started playing with TG and her attitude changed. She was understanding how the horse thinks and why he responds and

reacts, and they became a team.

I am very proud to say, Megan tries very hard to be a good partner and strives to play the Seven Games with her pony regularly. She has seen the difference it makes in her relationship with TG and how much harder he tries for her as a result. The bond between them has really strengthened. Megan has shown me and others that she can pass her Level 1 and so much more. Megan and TG won the 2003 Florida POA Overall 8-and-under high point award which included English, Western and games. Megan's mind is open for learning and she absorbs everything she sees. What I see in her was my intention in showing her Parelli Natural Horsemanship — she is natural with the horses and will grow up with the understanding of how to be a partner.



Savvy Crossword

Answers can be found on page 37

Tip: All of the words from the crossword can be found in the Level 1 Partnership Theory Book. It's O.K. to let your parents help. They may have fun, too!

Across

5. This is an instinct horses have that causes them to do the opposite of what a predator wants.
8. A systematic approach based on the same games that horses use to establish friendship and dominance.
9. Pat's definition: 'when preparation meets opportunity.'
11. The third Game that teaches your horse to respond by following a suggestion, where he moves without you touching him.
12. You have to invest this to improve your horse and yourself.
13. These animals are food for predators.
15. The seventh Game that teaches your horse to become braver and calmer through narrow spots.
16. This Key to Success will show you how much more there is to know about horses.
17. Another name for the study of Level 1 which will help you develop this 'relationship' with your horse.
22. Abilities that can be developed.
23. The sixth Game that is about teaching the horse to go equally to the right and left sides.
24. 'Intestinal fortitude' or 'the never-give-up factor.'
25. The first Game that convinces your horse that you will not act like a predator and that you can be trusted.

Down

1. The fourth Game played by wiggling the lead rope to send your horse away from you or combing the lead rope to bring your horse back to you.
2. One of the Four Savvys that means riding with loose reins or no contact at all.
3. This Key to Success will ensure that all communication with your horse is clear and understandable.
4. One of the Four Savvys that is about ultimate refinement with contact, precision and vertical flexion while riding.
6. The second Game that teaches your horse how to follow a feel and move away from pressure.
7. One of the Four Savvys which means handling horses on the ground with the help of a line or rope.
10. This Key to Success will help your horse from becoming bored and frustrated.
12. This Key to Success was created to improve the quality, effectiveness and sensitivity of communication.
14. The areas of the horse that Pat uses to find the right position to be in when asking a horse to do something.
18. This Key to Success that truly works with horses is positive, progressive and natural.
19. These are the abilities you are born with.
20. This type of animal preys on prey animals.
21. One of the Four Savvys that teaches your horse to come to you, follow you, have purity of gait, etc. on the ground with no ropes.

Pat Parelli, his mare Scamp and the new foal Smart Seven for you to color!



Meet the Tour Manager, Sue Shoemark

by Laura Dollar



So I know you just got your blue string...

Tell me how Pat awarded you your Level 2.

Well, it was quite bizarre. I've been quite busy, and this was only my second ride of the summer. Pat called in and said, "We've got some cattle to move on this 10,000 acres." The next day he, Linda, Neil and myself went to get these 11 steers that had gone astray. We actually had to move them three or four miles, up hill and down dale. Then it was... We're cantering home! Disengage! Do a lead change! We were just having real fun. The short story is when we got back to town for some reason we stopped at the office. Now I know when we normally need to pick up ropes and things for the ranch. And Neil came in and got a few things. But what I found out later was that's when they came in and got a blue string. I was presented with my blue string in the parking lot of City Market by Pat Parelli! I think it was a world's first.

And how long since you achieved your Level 1?

Pat won't like this... It was in '93 that I attained Level 1. In '95 I just had a couple of tasks left to complete my Level 2, but then basically that's when I started working full time for Parelli.

How did you start out working for Parelli?

It's an interesting story how I got started. I think it was the third time I saw Pat in Australia. He'd come to Australia twice a year. I decided there was something inherently wonderful and good about this program, and one day I was going to work for him full time. I lived in a little country town in Australia with less than 1,000 people and had three young sons and a business to run. It just became a goal of mine.

Then, Pat wasn't going to come back to Australia because it was too hard to organize. A girlfriend and I said, "We'll organize it!" She had the ranch, and I did the organizing. I basically started getting involved in event coordinating. I did that on a volunteer basis and finally became an area coordinator. I set up lots of courses with Parelli Australia. Later on they offered me a role in events.

How did you first hear about Parelli?

I was in my early 30's, had three little boys, worked really hard, got really sick and went to a naturopath. He said, "You don't do anything for yourself. What would you like to do?"

And I said, "Well, I've always wanted a horse." I got my first horse which was quite a disaster. It was a horse that was recommended by an Olympic gold medalist who lived near me. He was an eventer and fearless. It was a five-year-old Thoroughbred off the race track.

Through the preschool my sons went to I met Kate Gwynn. We became friends. She was getting back into riding since she'd had an accident, and I was learning to ride. We heard that this American cowboy was coming. So she and I went together to our first clinic. She ended up becoming an Instructor.

What does your job as Tour Manager entail?

It's overseeing the whole tour team including Laura Rome who's a great assistant and sets up the logistics. Basically it's to have a team on the road, to travel somewhere and then have a great team when the show's on. My role is to build a team. What's easier for me than most people is that I've been around Pat and Linda for a long time. I know a lot about how they think. It's been a study of Neil's and mine to have Pat answers and Linda answers. In the show it's easy for me to say "Quick get this or do that..." I can sometimes second guess Pat as to what's going to happen. It's probably easier for me than someone who hasn't been involved in this program for a long time. You know Pat has a special way to do most things!

So you said you achieved your Level 1 in '93. When did you start with the Parelli program?

I think it was '91. That was the first time I saw Pat. It was before we had the Levels. The set of five videos was out and the book. I remember the release of the packs in Australia in '98. We released the Partnership pack at Equitana which was a big thing. It's interesting to see the evolution. In those days Pat was teaching 1, 2 and 3. I'd just take notes and obviously go home and practice what I liked doing and ignored the other stuff. There wasn't a set system. Linda helped him systemize it. The value of the packs is immeasurable to me.

Do you have a horse now?

I have a horse in Australia that I've inherited from Pat. His name is Rhythm, and he's about 14 now. He's a Warmblood. I remember when Pat got him. It was before I was working for him. I was just a student. Rhythm has a good home with us, and he's gorgeous. He's such a brave horse. Quite different from my first horse.

What's your favorite part of your job?

Seeing the transformations in people, in their confidence with horses but also in their life. Empowering people. This whole game's about

the people, and the horse is a great tool.

On that note, you and Neil just did a presentation to the Navajo Nation. How did that go?

That was excellent! We had some troubled teenagers in the class, some elders in the community, a 4-H leader and someone from the rodeo association. We had families there with great, great grandparents who couldn't speak English, but sat there the whole time and watched their grandchildren.

What was impressive is they're really looking for something for their children and young people because they need some direction. The kids are athletic. They can ride like naturals.

There was a seven-year-old with spurs on. They've really learned the art of pull 'em to stop and kick 'em to go. It was very interesting for them to learn to get the horse's respect on the ground. The horses are bracey from being pulled on. By the second day they were riding in a halter with one rein, tossing Carrot Sticks and having fun.

The purpose as I understand it is not only to reintroduce the horse in a natural way to the Nation, but also to work on the human aspect of the relationship.

There are a lot of people there, and they don't have a direction in their life. So if they learn to develop a relationship with the horse, maybe they'll take that into other parts of their lives. That does work. My three sons were raised as teenagers on Parelli. Jake was 10 when he came to his first clinic, sat there, wrote notes and decided he wanted to

be a horseman. They all attained Level 1. They all grew up exposed to the Seven Games and thinking about relationships. They couldn't come home from school and say, "My teacher has a problem." Hmm... Interesting.

I think it's a great thing. We plan to go back to the Navajo Nation later in September and do a follow on course. They've got the program and the equipment. We sowed the seed that we'd love to have a demo team from the Navajo Nation at a Savvy Conference.

What's the worst part of your job?

I guess we live pretty well on the road, out of a suitcase. We've got a motor home now, but it means we don't have our horses with us or our dogs. I don't have a garden. But there will be a time in my life when I do. This is the season for doing this now.

There really isn't anything that's bad. I'm very lucky. It's a total privilege to work with Pat and Linda and be part of this movement. I've been lucky enough to travel to the UK, Australia, New Zealand, the U.S., all over and the program works. Whether people are five or six or in their eighties it just works. I think it helps people to think more naturally and get back to basics.

Your travels reminded me. Where are you from?

I'm actually English and when I was 12 my parents immigrated to Australia. It was in Sydney when I first saw Pat and Linda. It was all just meant to be. I think that everyone who gets involved and works for Parelli, it's for a reason. It's very special. 🐾

**Congratulations to our Newest
Savvy Club Lifetime Members!**



Jacklyn, Frank and Diane Barrett
Anthony Dongey
Mary Ann, Rachel, Lukas and Greg Parker
Jane, Peter, Rebecca and Carly Aldoretta
Dawn and Jerry Partlow
Kenny Partlow-Shelton
Jennifer, Larry and Steve Housley
Lisa Marie Ross
Richard Weilnau
Kevann Stone-Thompson
Richard Thompson
Austin Stone
Sandy and Brent Ward

Next issue...

Linda shares

**The Art of
Saddling for
Better Riding**



Junior Savvy Crossword Answers

Across: 5. Opposition Reflex, 8. Seven Games, 9. Luck, 11. Driving, 12. Time, 13. Prey, 15. Squeeze, 16. Knowledge, 17. Partnership, 22. Skills, 23. Sideways, 24. Try, 25. Friendly

Down: 1. Yoyo, 2. Freestyle, 3. Techniques, 4. Finesse, 6. Porcupine, 7. OnLine, 10. Imagination, 12. Tools, 14. Zones, 18. Attitude, 19. Talent, 20. Predator, 21. Liberty

The ending to this story isn't the one Pat Parelli and I had in mind when we originally began this Olympic quest. However, I'm not quite sure if this is the ending... or just the beginning.

I've made some tremendous progress in my riding and jumping skills since I began working with Pat Parelli and his program. I learned so much about horsemanship and the incredible relationships humans can have with horses. The thing is, I just began a little too late to make the Olympic team for Athens. While most Pentathletes around the world were already competing in Olympic qualifying competitions, learning to jump wasn't even part of the training program Pat had for me — because I wasn't ready.

While my riding skills improved dramatically over the summer and I did learn to jump pretty well by the September 2003 Savvy Conference, I wasn't ready to jump any kind of a competition course until December. I did do some courses perfectly, but others were not so perfect — especially on different horses every time. However, I learned a lot each time and things were unfolding beautifully. I just realistically didn't have enough time to get the necessary experience with competition jumping and Pentathlon competitions. My very first time competing in a Pentathlon competition was in January of this year. Things were coming together, but I just ran out of time. I started competing too late to get the necessary points to make the team for Athens. Everyone else had a few years head start on me.

Although our plan didn't lead to our original goal, I am in no way disappointed with any part of my training with Pat Parelli and his program of teaching horsemanship. I learned so much in such a short period of time. I learned about Parelli and how Pat's program can change people, their skills, and their relationships with horses.

It brings to mind an important lesson learned from being involved in the Olympic competition: It's not the final destination that matters, but the journey that is important. The journey is all about the lessons learned along the way, the friendships made, the experiences that truly change your life,

and the pride of knowing you chased your dream as far as you could take it. Even the original Olympic Truce says it's not about winning, it's about participating and trying.

I feel truly blessed to have experienced everything I did with Pat and Linda and the entire Parelli clan. I will carry these wonderful memories, lessons, experiences and friendships close to my heart all my life. Yes, I was very disappointed to realize that these Olympic games would not be possible. But, as disappointed as this one part of it was, in retrospect, looking back at all the time spent with the Parellis, Art and Letitia Glen, the Parelli instructors and the wonderful friends I made there, how could I ever say, "yeah God, thanks for nothing." I couldn't and I wouldn't!

I know in my heart that we did everything possible to do what we could in a short period of time. I even had some big setbacks in the way of a leg injury, a knee sprain and a broken hand. But I overcame it all and kept on going and kept progressing. And while I may have started too late for

these Olympic Games, I did well enough to be encouraged by everyone involved in the Modern Pentathlon to keep going, and see how far I can take it.

This is exactly what I plan to do. I will return to Europe and continue to train. I will continue the Parelli program. Pat's handiwork may not have been visible in time for the Olympic Games, but I promise you, it will be visible. Experience means a lot in a sport like the Pentathlon, any sport for that matter, and that is what I was lacking. That is what prevented me from making the team. And for Pat and me, this was beyond both of our control. There is nothing that can substitute for time and experience.

So don't think of this as the end of the story. Think of it as a heck of a beginning! 🐾

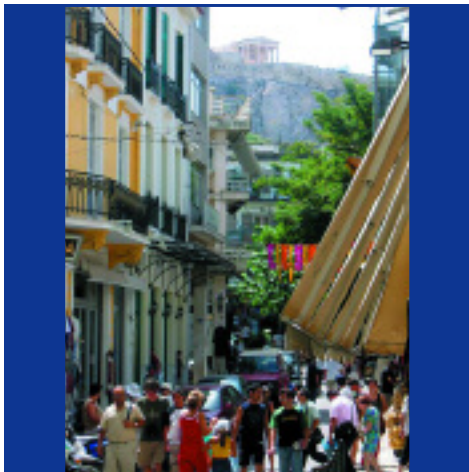
Editor's note: Parelli Natural Horsemanship was Tracy's sole sponsorship for her Olympic quest, and all of us at Parelli want to thank those of you who contributed financially towards Tracy's Olympic journey, as well as our gratitude to all of you who supported her with kind wishes.



AN OLYMPIC VISIT

Parelli winner jets off to Athens

by Mary Kashuba



Above: Views from Athens;
Tracy Mattes & Mary Kashuba
Below: Various equine events
that Mary was able to see in
person at the 2004 Olympics

What an opportunity! Winning the 2004 Olympics gold level prize at last year's Savvy Conference sent me on an adventure I will always associate with the assertive, curious, playful, 'adjust to fit the situation' Parelli model. Because of circumstance I made the trip alone and arrived fine; a day later my baggage did too. And one of those infamous Greek drivers crunched my rental car. It was all part of the adventure.

Athletic strength permeated Athens. I focused on the feel that surrounds excellence. The Olympian epitomizes the culmination of 'proper preparation' and 'perfect practice.'

At the Olympic Reunion Center I sat with former Olympians and coaches, talked about what it takes, about the highs and the lows, about the importance of reconnecting with others who have run the race. These were intense, focused people from around the world.

Tracy Mattes, the energetic pentathlete whose sole sponsorship was the Parelli organization and who was working her way through Pat's program, made this experience memorable. Between her official duties she introduced me to staff, gave me email access, flagged the best transport options and introduced me to Greek frappes — the iced coffees that made my days. She showered me with t-shirts, caps, pins and an Olympian backpack, and made sure I had my equestrian venue tickets. I'm grateful for her generosity and spirit and for the fact that Parelli sponsored her throughout the whole qualifying process.

The U.S. Dressage Team captured the bronze at the Markopoulo Equestrian Center. In the Individual Competition Debbie McDonald came one percentage point from the bronze — an excellent performance. The Eventing Team — after a much publicized Court of Arbitration decision — came home with the bronze. And the Show Jumping Team won the silver in a jump-off with the Swedes. In celebration they banned together and threw their beloved coach into the water jump — three piece suit and all. Americans can be like that.

What a journey! Thank you Pat and Linda! 🐾



Photos courtesy of Mary Kashuba



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